DISSERTATION

ON

THE BEST MEANS

OF

Maintaining and Employing the Poor

IN

PARISH WORK-HOUSES.

Labo egenti, sed ut ipse non egeam. Succuram perituro, sed ut ipse non peream. Respiciendæ sunt cuique facultates suæ, viresque.

SENEC DE BENEF.

PUBLISHED AT THE REQUEST OF THE

Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce:

Having obtained the Premium offered by the Society for the best Treatise on this Subject.

By JOHN MASON GOOD,

Author of "The Prize Dissertation on the Diseases of Prisons and Poor-houses;" published at the Request of the Medical Society of London; and of "The History of Medicine, &c." published at the Request of the General Pharmaceutic Association of Great Britain.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. MORTON, NO. 32, HOLYWELL-STREET, STRAND.

SC 2084A

339.0942
G 24

TO THE

PRESIDENT,

VICE-PRESIDENTS,

AND

MEMBERS AT LARGE,

OF THE

SOCIETY

FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF

Arts, Commerce, and Manufactures,

The following DISSERTATION,

PUBLISHED AT THEIR REQUEST,

Is with due Deference,

DEDICATED,

By their much obliged,

And very obedient Servant,

The AUTHOR.

GUILDFORD STREET,
March 10th, 1798.

409550
Peyton

PREFACE.

AMONG the premiums proposed by the Society, for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, for the year 1796, an offer was made of the Gold Medal, or Fifty Guineas for the most able Dissertation on the following Subject,

"*What are the best means of maintaining and employing the Poor in Parish Work-houses?*"

I was most forcibly struck with the importance of this question, on first perusing it. The astonishing amount of the annual poor rates of this kingdom, and the dreadful situation of paupers in general, notwithstanding this immense provision, are subjects, towards which my attention has often been turned; and I have frequently been half tempted, before I had any expectation of patronage, of employing my humbler exertions in pointing out the more obvious causes of this increasing evil, and the more obvious means of diminishing its magnitude. An evil which cannot but be severely felt in times of the utmost prosperity: but, which,

in consequence of the excessive taxation demanded for the support of our present hostilities with France, falls with a tenfold weight upon the income of every individual. It was not, therefore, without the highest satisfaction, I beheld this important subject brought forward by the liberal and patriotic Society, to which I have just alluded: and I determined from the moment of perusing the question, to engage in the generous contest they had proposed. I had already indeed been fortunate enough to succeed in a similar effort aroused by a Prize Question from the Medical Society of London, on the subject of the *Diseases* of Prisons and Poor-Houses: and having purposely treated this question in as popular a manner as it would admit * a Dissertation on the best means of maintaining and employing Paupers in a state of confinement seemed necessary to finish the System; and I had even been requested to add a Treatise on this Subject, by several friends of patriotic and literary eminence. The success I have met with, and a hope that some benefit, at least, will result from the system proposed, have induced me to lay that system before the public.

On parochial economics, and employments for

* See my Prize Dissertation on the Diseases of Prisons and Poor-houses. *Printed* for C. DILLY, 1794.

paupers: much important and practical knowledge has been advanced of late, by several ingenious philosophers, and political economists. And the Reader will find that I have been in many instances indebted to the observations of the late Mr. Howard, Count Rumford, M. Voght, M. Herenschwrad, the Rev. Mr. Davies, and several others. From the important and voluminous labours of Sir Frederic Eden, I should undoubtedly have been induced to make many an extract, had the public been in possession of them at the time the following pages were composed. I am still indebted to this gentleman, however, for several private observations with which he has favoured me, and which I have scattered from his own manuscript paper, through the body of the Treatise.

J. M. G.

SETCION I.

Preliminary Observations: with a review of the Origin of Parochial Establishments; and the Principles of Pauper-laws.

SECTION II.

Of the general Construction of a Parish Work-House: its Offices, Furniture, and Regulations relative to Health.

SECTION III.

PART 1st.---*On Diet.*

PART 2d.---*Of an Infirmary; and the Care of the Sick.*

SECTION IV.

Of Employment and Labour.

SECTION V.

Of Moral and Religious Economics.

IN THE PRESS,

AND SPEEDILY TO BE PUBLISHED, BY SUBSCRIPTION,

THE NATURE OF THINGS,

A POEM,

IN SIX BOOKS;

TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL OF

TITUS LUCRETIUS CARUS.

AND ACCOMPANIED WITH A LARGE BODY OF

NOTES, CRITICAL AND EXPLANATORY.

BY JOHN MASON GOOD.

THIS Work will consist of Three Volumes, Quarto; each containing about Five Hundred Pages. The Paper will be Superfine Wove-Vellum, and the Type New and cast for the purpose; and no Expence will be spared to render it complete in every respect.

To each Book will be perfixed a large and elegant Engraving, designed by BURNEY and executed by HEATH. The Subject, some Episode, or Historical Digression, selected from the Book to which it appertains.

The Title-Page to each Volume will be from an Engraving, printed on Indian Paper, and accompanied with an exquisite Vignette.

The Price of the whole, TWELVE GUINEAS. For the ſake of diſpatch, it will be printed in Half-Volumes, in Boards. Each Half-Volume to contain one complete Book, with its correſponding Plate and Notes.

Two GUINEAS, or the price of the firſt Half-Volume, to be paid at the time of Subſcribing: the remainder as the Work is delivered.

SUBSCRIPTIONS received by Mr. ADAMS, No. 12, York-Buildings, Mary-le-bone Road, Agent for this Work; and by the Tranſlator, Caroline-Place, Guildford-Street: at both which places may be ſeen a Proſpectus of the Work, and ſpecimens of the Notes, the Verſion, and the Engravings.

ERRATA.

Page 48, line 2, for *praſimonious*, read *parſimonious*.
P. 77, l. 9, for *I dot*, read *I do not*.
P. 78, l. 2, for *eſtabliſhed*, read *eſtabliſh*.
P. 104, l. 13, for *cauſual* read *caſual*.

DISSERTATION

ON

PARISH WORKHOUSES, *&c.*

SECTION I.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS: WITH A REVIEW OF THE ORIGIN OF PAROCHIAL ESTABLISHMENTS, *&c.*

IT is a lamentable but generally acknowledged fact, that although no country in EUROPE is burdened with half the oppreſſive taxations for the ſupport of its poor, nor can boaſt of half the eleemoſynary inſtitutions projected for their aſſiſtance as GREAT BRITAIN—there is no country in which the poor are either ſo numerous, or ſo wretched. Not a city, nor a town, nor a hamlet is to be

paſſed through but beggars are ſtill to be met with obtruding themſelves in every ſtreet, alike miſerable in their appearance, and vociferous in their entreaties: and every parochial and every private effort ſeem equally to fail in their original and charitable intention. The conſideration of this ſubject—the continual exiſtence of 300,000 dependent paupers—the annual expenditure of more than two millions of money for their ſupport, is therefore a matter of high national importance. And the Society of Arts, Commerce, and Manufactures, is entitled to no common praiſe in propoſing it as a topic for public notice and diſcuſſion.

That there is a radical and eſſential defect ſomewhere, is, therefore, obvious to every one. But whether this defect be attributable to the exiſting ſyſtem of poor laws, or to their relaxed and irregular execution, is a queſtion not ſo eaſily

to be decided: and we cannot be much ſurpriſed at the different opinions of political writers on this ſubject; nor wonder that, whilſt ſome have been ſolicitous to pull down the whole fabric, as a heterogeneous chaos of confuſion and perplexity, which never has been, and never can be duly executed or underſtood; others have contemplated it as a moſt venerable and noble monument of political wiſdom and equity, which requires nothing but attention to render it perſpicuous and practicable.

A brief hiſtory of the origin of the preſent ſyſtem of poor laws in this kingdom will eaſily explain the cauſe of ſuch an extreme diſparity of opinion; and perhaps evolve ſome ideas that may be of no ſmall ſervice in the further conſideration of the ſubject immediately in view.

It is well known to all who are con-

verſant with antient hiſtory, that there is no nation of early date that ever pretended to any public edicts for the benefit or regulation of its poor.

In the earlier ages the univerſal ſimplicity of diet, and the more equal diviſion of property, prevented the exiſtence of ſuch a claſs of mankind; and little or no notice is taken of them, therefore, in any of the legal inſtitutions of EGYPT, HINDOSTAN, or CHINA. And, in the ſubſequent eras of GREECE and ROME, the deſtruction produced by the frequent repetition of foreign wars and internal commotions, together with the general diſtribution of conquered territories amongſt the meaneſt citizens, precluded, at all times, paupers from becoming ſo numerous as to form an object of much attention to the legiſlature. On particular occaſions, however, and with a view of conciliating the favour of the multi-

tude, an aſpiring chief is frequently to be traced who ſcattered forth his largeſſes with a moſt profuſe and indiſcriminating hand. PISISTRATUS and PERICLES both found it their intereſt to act in this manner at ATHENS. And AUGUSTUS, during his reign, long afterwards, ordered a public diſtribution of corn to two hundred thouſand citizens at ROME. Occaſionally likewiſe, when theſe laſt were excited to inſurrection by ſome ambitious tribune, they obtained a temporary law for the relief of their real or pretended neceſſities: under which deſcription may be ranked the *lex Clodia*, and the *leges Sempronіæ*. But as theſe laws were generally of ſhort duration, and rather the effect of a ſeditious aſſembly of the people, than the cool and collected deciſion of a deliberate council, they cannot ſubvert the general poſition that there was no regular ſyſtem of laws, among any of

the antient nations, to relieve the impotent and the needy *.

The JEWS alone formed an amiable exception to this conduct; and, in their theocratic code, laid the first foundation for that eleemosynary assistance which was afterwards universally adopted throughout the christian church. For the poor and the fatherless the wisdom of the HEBREW legislator ordained that a tithe should be raised every third year, and appropriated to their respective necessities †. And in pursuance of the same fraternal spirit, ST. PAUL, long afterwards, advised the christian churches, to whom he addressed his epistles, that every one, who had it in his power,

* The reader may refer for a more particular account of regulations relating to the poor in GREECE and ROME, to the first Section of my "DISSERTATION on the DISEASES of PRISONS and WORKHOUSES."

† Deut. chap. XIV.

ſhould appropriate, on the firſt day of every week, ſome portion of his gain or income to charitable purpoſes* ; rendering hereby that which, among the JEWS, was a political law of the ſtate, among the CHRISTIANS, a neceſſary duty of religion.

And as a neceſſary duty of religion, and as ſuch only, it was conceived for many ages afterwards, in every chriſtian country: the tithes of the church, or the voluntary donations of monaſteries forming, in every kingdom, the entire ſubſiſtence of the indigent and infirm. The Emperor CONSTANTINE, indeed, created an expreſs tax, in his edicts, for the maintenance of the children of the helpleſs. But this ſalutary regulation was ſoon afterwards rejected in JUSTINIAN's celebrated collection; and the

* 1 Cor. chap. XVI. ver. 2.

church was ſtill reſorted to as the only proper ſource of charitable aſſiſtance and contribution.

CHARLEMAGNE, therefore, commanded a fourth part of its tithes to be expreſsly appropriated to this purpoſe, throughout the whole of his extenſive empire; and every monaſtery was perpetually ſurrounded with the idle and the needy.

In many parts of SCOTLAND the weekly contributions enjoined by ST. PAUL are continued to this hour; as, till of late, they were alſo at HAMBURGH and throughout HOLLAND: and they conſtituted the only fund from whence the poor of thoſe places were ſupported.

In this country, as in EUROPE at large, the common mode of ſubſiſtence was derived occaſionally and originally from a diviſion of the tithes: but more generally, and in later periods, when this

diviſion

diviſion was ſcandalouſly infringed upon and evaded, and the neighbouring monaſteries claimed the whole for themſelves, from the voluntary contributions which thoſe monaſteries thought proper to beſtow.

At the general diſſolution of monaſteries, therefore, in the reign of HENRY VIII. the poor were again thrown, unprovided for, on the hands of the public: and, having been too much accuſtomed to indiſcriminate aſſiſtance from theſe religious inſtitutions, without any due enquiry into the merits of their claims, their number was ſufficiently conſiderable to render them an object of attention to the legiſlature: and in the twenty-ſixth, and many of the ſubſequent years of the reign of this monarch, a variety of ſtatutes were, therefore, enacted for their regulation. "Theſe poor," obſerves Judge BLACKSTONE, "were princi-

pally of two ſorts; ſick and impotent, and, therefore, unable to work; idle and ſturdy, and, therefore, able but not willing, to exerciſe any honeſt employment. To provide, in ſome meaſure for both theſe, in and about the metropolis, his ſon EDWARD VI. founded three royal hoſpitals: Chriſt's and St. Thomas's for the relief of the impotent through infancy or ſickneſs: and Bridewell for the puniſhment and employment of the vigorous and idle. But theſe were far from being ſufficient for the care of the poor throughout the kingdom at large: and therefore, after many other fruitleſs experiments, by ſtatute 43 ELIZ. c. 2. overſeers of the poor were appointed in every pariſh *."

It is from this celebrated ſtatute the preſent ſyſtem of poor laws has been

* Vol. I. b. 4. ch. 9. 39 Eliz.

produced,

produced, and has ramified: and it conſtitutes, in the opinion of the above venerable writer, a plan "more humane and beneficial than feeding and clothing of millions, by affording them the means, with proper induſtry, to feed and clothe themſelves *.

In this ſtatute the laws of ſettlement alluded to, and which were paſt but a few years anterior †, were clear and definite: and whilſt they duly provided for the impotent, and compelled the idle to work, they allowed the utmoſt liberty, to the active and induſtrious, of chuſing their own habitations, and reſiding where they could beſt benefit themſelves by their labour. The ſubdiviſion of pariſhes had not at this time taken place. But when, in the reign of CHARLES II. this event occurred, the original ſyſtem pro-

* Vol. IV. b. 4. ch. 33. † 1 Edw. VI.

jected in the days of ELIZABETH was materially departed from and ſubverted. The poor, from this period, were all of them compelled to remain in their reſpective diſtricts. And yet with a ſingular ſpecies of inconſiſtency, the modes of gaining ſettlements were multiplied, and rendered leſs difficult: and while, by the former enactment, the poor were, therefore, in many places, increaſing in their numbers, from the natural paucity of labour in the pariſhes to which they were confined; by the latter it was often difficult, and ſometimes impoſſible to determine the true and proper pariſhes to which they belonged, and to which they were required to be removed.

In the reign of ELIZABETH ſettlements were obtained in two ways alone; by birth, or a reſidence for one complete year *. But, after the reſtoration, the

* Stat. 39. c. 4.

twelve-

twelvemonth's reſidence was contracted to forty days; and ſtill allowed to be good whether it were a reſidence from ſervice, apprenticeſhip or ſimple inhabitancy *. And the rental of a tenement of the annual value of 10l. gave a right from the moment, and precluded the neceſſity of all time whatſoever. At this period, too, was invented the doctrine of certificates as the only mean by which an induſtrious poor man could ever eſcape from one diſtrict in which there was a ſcarcity of employment to another in which a greater number of hands was inceſſantly demanded than could eaſily be procured. But as, in caſe of illneſs, or other misfortune, an additional expence would be hereby incurred by the pariſh granting the certificate, it is a mean which the blind and impolitic parſimony of overſeers in general has very ſeldom permitted to be practiſed. It is againſt this im-

* Charles II. 13 and 14 cap. 12.

policy

policy of conduct that the late act in favour of Friendly Societies has been principally levelled; and ſo far as it is capable of operating, its influence has certainly been highly beneficial.

It is obvious, therefore, that the ſimple ſyſtem invented in the reign of ELIZABETH has been ſince rendered infinitely complex and multifarious: and, though there has been ſcarcely a ſeſſion of parliament paſs, to the preſent hour, but ſome law or other has been enacted to amend imagined errors, or remove ſuppoſed defects, they have, too generally, rather added to the mere bulk and burden of the inſtitution, than ſimplified and elucidated it. And hence proceeds that extreme diſſonance of ſentiment among mankind, which we are continually witneſſing on this important ſubject. Some politicians, regarding it in its original conſtruction, have been enraptured with the goodly fabric; whilſt the multiplied encum-

encumbrances, with which it has ſince been gradually enveloped, have induced others to deſpiſe it altogether, and to endeavour to erect ſome new and untried ſyſtem upon its ruins.

About ten years ago the attention of parliament was particularly directed to this object. Many pamphlets were written on the occaſion; and many different changes were propoſed. Among the political writers of this time Mr. ACLAND and Mr. GILBERT appear to have been moſt ſucceſsful in their ſtudies, and in the public attention which they excited. The former, from obſerving the great benefit which had accrued to the nation, from the frequent formation and introduction of FRIENDLY SOCIETIES or CLUBS, was for aboliſhing the preſent ſyſtem of poor laws entirely, and for ſubſtituting, in its ſtead, a plan formed on the principle of theſe ſocieties, which was to incorporate the

the whole nation into one general club; every one of whom, except thoſe who, in ſuch ſocieties, are commonly exempted, was to contribute, according to his ſituation in life, his regular portion of aſſiſtance; and every one of whom, according to ſuch contribution, or rather according to his rank in one of the twelve claſſes of perſons into which the whole was to be divided, was, in conſequence hereof, to be entitled to relief, as a matter of abſolute right, upon his application and his having occaſion for relief. Novel and untried as this plan was, and exceptionable in many reſpects, it had the credit of being ſtrenuouſly approved of, and recommended by that judicious politician, and accurate calculator, the late Dr. PRICE; and this though he was no friend to the inſtitution of beneficial pariſh clubs, and, in many inſtances, openly diſcountenanced them.

The

The ſcheme propoſed by Mr. GILBERT was not quite ſo replete with deſtruction to the common ſyſtem of poor laws as that of the politician juſt quoted. An idea had for ſome time been circulating throughout the kingdom, that much neceſſary expence would be ſaved, and much happy economy introduced, by the incorporation of contiguous pariſhes; with the appointment of one ſet of ſubordinate officers only, for the regulation of all the poor of the ſeveral pariſhes ſo incorporated. And, from the general returns made at this time to parliament from the pariſhes that had thus united themſelves, and thoſe which had remained ſeparate, the ratio of expence appeared to be univerſally diminiſhed by the incorporating ſyſtem. Mr. GILBERT, therefore, propoſed dividing the kingdom at large, excepting indeed the metropolis, and thoſe cities and towns that are poſ-

ſeſſed of ſpecial acts of parliament of their own, into ſeparate diſtricts; each diſtrict compriſing either a city, or a large town, or about ten ſmall adjoining pariſhes.—And he took a great deal of pains in drawing up the heads of a bill by which this ſcheme was to be carried into effect: and which, at the time that it changed the whole fabric of exiſting poor laws as they then ſtood, was deſigned to retain in itſelf the ſum total of their antient and intrinſic ſpirit and value.

Both theſe plans were made the ſubjects of diſtinct bills, and introduced before the legiſlature: but they were both, in turn, rejected; and the old ſyſtem was hereby confirmed and exalted. This conduct of parliament was much controverted and cenſured; but, I think, without reaſon. Before an inſtrument is thrown aſide as altogether uſeleſs or inadequate, it is but juſt that it ſhould be expoſed to a fair

a fair trial, and that its real and intrinſic powers ſhould be ſuffered to exert themſelves. Thus it has not happened with the poor laws as they at preſent ſtand. Their ſpirit has, in moſt inſtances been completely miſunderſtood: and, though their regular adminſtration has been deemed an arduous taſk, it has generally been committed to men who were equally unqualified, from the want of education and talents, to exerciſe it aright.

It has been ſaid that, as the preſent ſyſtem of laws will not permit any one to be ſtarved, be his conduct what it may, a ſpirit of idleneſs is hereby engendered; and the man who *will* work is burdened with the expence and maintenance of the man who *will not*. That this is too frequently a fact I well know: but I know likewiſe that it is not the fault of the law, but of the adminiſtrators of the law. So far as relates to parochial aſſiſt-

ance

ance the law is addreſſed to the impotent alone; and it authoriſes the overſeer to compel thoſe who are indiſpoſed to work to labour for their own ſubſiſtence: And were this authority exerciſed as it ought to be; were the means of labour regularly ſought after and enforced, and the impotent alone allowed relief without labour, one quarter of the two million and half of pounds ſterling, which are, at preſent, expended annually in ſupport of the poor throughout this kingdom, would be amply adequate to every demand, and the poor themſelves would be as much benefited as the public. But to produce this ſalutary alteration requires the regular attention, and unremitted aſſiſtance of the well-informed inhabitants in every pariſh. It requires that veſtry meetings ſhould be frequently held, and numerouſly attended: that the overſeers, for the time being, ſhould be ſelected from the

moſt

moſt active, and the moſt able: that the induſtrious ſhould be encouraged, the idle puniſhed; and that one third of the public houſes now exiſting throughout the kingdom ſhould be prohibited.

Were exertions like theſe to be made in every pariſh, and upon the baſis of the poor laws as they at preſent ſtand, we ſhould not be perpetually hearing of their numerous defects and general irrelevancy. But while, in every pariſh, the preſent torpid conduct is exhibited by thoſe whom it chief concerns, for their own intereſt, to be active and vigilant; while ſome are too rich, and ſome are too idle, and ſome are too buſy to engage in parochial offices: and the important duty is hereby devolved upon the hands of thoſe who have neither comprehenſion nor diſcrimination to perform it—it is not to be wondered at, that every ſpecies of profuſion, impoſition, and error, ſhould

daily

daily take place, and be daily ſuffered to paſs without notice. It matters not what laws, or what ſyſtems of laws are invented in a caſe of this kind; if thoſe to whom the execution of thoſe laws is entruſted, and who are deeply intereſted in that execution, are thus remiſs, and inattentive on their part. And whatever be the peculiar advantages which either of the plans, I have juſt given a ſketch of, may pretend to;—if the ſame culpable and unaccountable negligence were to be exhibited in their enforcement, complaints as numerous as thoſe with which our ears are hourly aſſaulted in the preſent day, would ſtill be vociferated on every ſide.

Allowing, then, the preſent ſyſtem of poor laws to be adequate to the purpoſe for which it was deſigned, notwithſtanding all the imperfections of which it is poſſeſt, there is, I think, much more ground

ground for argument on the propriety and impropriety of erecting pariſh work-houſes to collect the poor together into one common focus. And, as the only reaſon that can be alledged for ſuch a collection, is a diminution of public expence, it is not an idle, nor an unworthy taſk, to enquire in what degree this object is hereby obtained.

There is no man whatſoever but has a ſecret and hearty wiſh for a life of independence: and who would not, be his ſituation what it may, make ſome voluntary ſacrifice to preſerve that independence entire. There are few paupers to be found but would be more chearfully ſatisfied with three ſhillings a week allowed them in their own cottages, or among their own friends, than four ſhillings expended upon them at a diſtance from thence, and beneath the eye of a tyrannical or capricious maſter. And

we

we have more reaſon to expect economy, a virtue not often to be met with, I acknowledge, in hovels of extreme poverty and wretchedneſs, in the family which, in conſequence of illneſs or other misfortune, is dependent upon a certain weekly ſtipend, than in that where no ſuch ſtipend exiſts, but where every branch of it is hurried immediately away from home to be ſupported by a foreign hand.

Again: allowing the beſt regulations in the world to be adopted in a work-houſe, no taſk-maſter will ever be able to obtain, in a given time, the ſame quantity of labour from a given number of perſons forcibly employed, as might have been obtained in the ſame time, and from the ſame number of perſons employed on their own account, and reaping, perſonally, the fruits of their induſtry and application. The LACE-

DEMONIANS

DEMONIANS cultivated a much larger proportion of land, by means of their ſlaves, than the ATHENIANS; and they had a much larger proportion of ſlaves engaged in the cultivation. But the ATHENIANS enjoyed double the produce of the LACEDEMONIANS. The ſoil in LACONIA was as fertile as that around the PIRÆUM; but the ſlaves employed on the latter were entitled to many privileges which the former were, in no inſtance, allowed. In the one caſe a perſonal ſtimulus was daily elicited; whilſt, in the latter, it was entirely deſtroyed by the ſeverity of the ſervice impoſed. It is the ſame in modern times. Theoretical calculators have conjectured that the earnings of a convict will be ſuperior to that of a common day-labourer: but thoſe who are practically acquainted with the quantity of work performed by each, in a

given period, are ſurpriſed at the fallacy of the calculation. The reaſon, however, is obvious, and the fact incontrovertible.

Whether, therefore, we regard the ſum earned, or the economy made uſe of in the expenditure of that ſum, whenever it can poſſibly be avoided, it will always be impolitic to introduce the eſtabliſhment of pariſh work-houſes.

I have ſaid *whenever it can poſſibly be avoided*; and I beg the limitation may be attended to: for though, in villages, conſiſting entirely of farms, and where the only inhabitants are the occupiers of thoſe farms, and their huſbandmen, this may be effected with very great eaſe, and very great general advantage; the caſe will be widely different when applied to large manufacturing towns. At EXETER there are generally ſix hundred paupers in the poor-houſe at a time: and at LIVERPOOL ſeldom leſs than a thouſand.

ſand. And though, by due management, theſe numbers might be reduced to nearly half; yet to attend to the ſeparate habitations of two, three, four, or five hundred neceſſitous poor, would exceed the power of any overſeers in the world, unleſs it were to conſtitute their entire occupation; and, as it has been recommended by a foreign writer of much ability and reputation *, a ſalary were to be attached to the office: an experiment which, I am afraid, would, in every inſtance, prove big with complaint and diſſatisfaction to every party concerned. In ſuch places it might be a leſs troubleſome experiment to raiſe the wages of the poor to a more liberal allowance, and hereby to add an additional ſtimulus to their labour.—" A man who lives by ſuch labour as requires nothing but

* Gian. Pietro Fiorio. Diſſertazione Medico-politica, &c.

bodily ſtrength," ſays a very intelligent writer of the preſent day, "has ſtill a right to expect ſuch wages as may enable him to live comfortably: and ſuch wages he actually receives in all new ſocieties of men till augmenting population lowers the price of labour, and raiſes the neceſſaries of life *."

At VIENNA, MUNICH, and many other cities in GERMANY, where no poor-houſes are to be met with, and where vagrants and beggars are ſtrictly prohibited, another plan has been introduced; which, by being cloſely attended to by Count BERGEN, our own countryman Count RUMFORD, and ſome other characters of equal humanity, appears to have been highly beneficial to the com-

* Account of the Management of the Poor at Hamburgh, &c. by C. Voght, Eſq.

munity;

munity; and has, indeed, been long recommended as an object of imitation to this country by Mr. HOWARD, and many other writers on the ſame ſubject *: I mean the introduction of public work-ſhops, to which all perſons who are in want of employment might apply, and where they might be daily accommodated with labour. And I cannot but wiſh that ſuch an inſtitution were to be attempted in many of the *larger* manufacturing towns, more eſpecially, in this kingdom; as MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD, and BIRMINGHAM, where the ſums levied, by poor-rates, are very enormous indeed; and where the number of paupers is ſufficient to find employment for a proper eſtabliſhment of officers and

* Howard on Lazarettos—Draught of a Bill for the Relief, &c.

ſuperintendants. But as, at VIENNA, there is, independent of this public inſtitution, a building appropriated as an aſylum for the aged, the infirm, and the incurable; ſo, I apprehend, it would be generally found requiſite to eſtabliſh a ſecond foundation of this ſort in every place where the former was allowed to ſubſiſt.

In the manufacturing towns I have juſt alluded to, in conſequence of the numbers of their needy and impotent, ſuch inſtitutions might be attended with even leſs expence, when ſeparate, than if united. But in ſmaller cities and towns, where the poor are not ſufficient to employ two eſtabliſhments of ſervants, the expence, I am afraid, would be hereby much increaſed; and a parochial workhouſe, with all its inconveniences, muſt inevitably be reſorted to. At HAMBURGH, however, where a ſimilar kind

of

of public work-ſhop is eſtabliſhed, this is not the caſe: for here no aſylum is tolerated for reſident paupers of any deſcription. But it is the extreme and unremitted attention of the whole body of principal citizens alone that renders ſuch an inſtitution unneceſſary. "Two hundred of our moſt reſpectable inhabitants," obſerves M. VOGHT, in his account of the parochial economy lately introduced there, "have been employed on this ſubject for the laſt ſeven years." And he adds, that "during this period hardly a beggar has been ſeen in the city *."

Such an application is, however, I am perſuaded, too complex and inceſſant to become general throughout the different diſtricts of any country in the world. And as poor-houſes for reſident paupers

* Account of the Management of the Poor in Hamburgh.

will, in all probability, be for ages the common plan adopted for the ſupport of thoſe paupers throughout this kingdom, I paſs on to the conſideration of the beſt means of conſtructing and regulating them.

SECTION

SECTION II.

OF THE GENERAL CONSTRUCTION OF A PARISH WORKHOUSE—ITS OFFICES, FURNITURE, AND REGULATIONS RELATIVE TO HEALTH.

"IT is a ſecret but indelible perſuaſion," ſays Dr. JEBB, "that lofty walls, and iron doors, and grated windows, encloſe diſeaſe, as well as miſery of other kinds, which prevents the exertions of the compaſſionate from being employed in leſſening the calamities of confinement*." What is here ſaid with reſpect to *priſons* may, with equal propriety, be applied to *poor-houſes*. When

* Thoughts on the Conſtruction and Polity of Priſons. Vol. II.

the appearance *without* is but deſcriptive of the wretchedneſs and miſery *within*, the humane and compaſſionate, themſelves, are too apt to turn from the proſpect with as much ſpeed as poſſible, and to withhold that kindneſs and attention they would otherwiſe be diſpoſed to evince: and ſuch is the ſituation with reſpect to, by far the greater number of, the pariſh work-houſes in GREAT BRITAIN even at this moment. But few diſtricts comparatively have had either the benevolence or the wiſdom to erect buildings for this expreſs purpoſe. In the villages, therefore, two or three contiguous hovels are united together in the moſt aukward and unworkman-like manner; with a clay floor, and thatch roof, pervious in many places, and often happily pervious, to the atmoſphere: the windows broken, and blocked up with old ballads, and other papers paſted together;

gether; with a chamber ſtory, if there be one, riſing not above ſix or ſeven feet from the ground, and entered into by a few dark, tottering, and perpendicular ſtairs, that require the utmoſt circumſpection to aſcend them without an accident. In larger towns, ſome old, ruinous, and deſolate manſion-houſe, or monaſtery, is generally appropriated to the ſame purpoſe, and forms a ſtill more extenſive theatre of wretchedneſs; in which, though the rooms be loftier and larger, there is as loud a demand for univerſal cleanlineſs and repairs, as in the village hovels deſcribed above; and where, as at the poor-houſe in MARLBOROUGH, whilſt a few only of the older and more fortunate of the inhabitants, are poſſeſt of a little filthy bedding, and a few filthy rags to cover themſelves with at night, the reſt are obliged to remain contented with the bare floor, or a bed of ſtraw.—"Tol

eſt le ſpectacle," to adopt the words of M. DU HAMEL, " qu'il eſt queſtion de détruire, et de reformer: ſpectacle dont il nous auroit eté difficile de nous former une idée, ſi nous n'en euſſions pas eté temoins *."

Into ſcenes like theſe the benevolent are too often deterred from entering.—The buſineſs relating to them is tranſacted at a diſtance, and with the moſt imprudent extravagance: and even many, who are conſcious of the various evils endured, and are able to alleviate them, think them too numerous and complicated for every attempt of the kind.

To the credit of many cities and towns in this country, however, this picture of extreme wretchedneſs will not hold good

* Such is the ſpectacle we are called upon to deſtroy, and to reform: a ſpectacle of which it would be difficult to form any idea, if we had not been witneſſes of it ourſelves.—Hiſt. de l'Acad. Royale, 1780; 4to, p. 411.

univerſally.

univerſally. The work-houſes at LEEDS, NANTWICH, and SHREWSBURY, are all honourable exceptions. At the latter place the inhabitants were very fortunate in having it in their power, without the expence of building, to purchaſe a hoſpital which was originally deſigned as a nurſery to the FOUNDLING HOSPITAL in LONDON, and which was well adapted to the purpoſe for which it was purchaſed. Its diſcipline is ſtrict and good; its officers punctual in the diſcharge of their duty; and Mr. HOWARD has not complimented it more highly than it merits, by obſerving that "it may vie with the beſt regulated houſes of induſtry in this kingdom *." That at NANTWICH, in CHESHIRE, was erected a few years ago only, and for the expreſs purpoſe to which it was appropriated. It contains,

* Account of Lazarettos, &c. 4to, p. 175.

therefore,

therefore, many conveniences which few other work-houſes are in poſſeſſion of; and, amongſt the leaſt of which, muſt not be reckoned the ſpacious garden and paſture ground by which it is ſurrounded.

In conſtructing a work-houſe for paupers, the firſt thing to be regarded is ſalubrity of ſituation. For an error in this reſpect might lay the foundation for much general and perpetual ſickneſs; eſpecially if the ſociety ſhould be numerous; and no inconſiderable addition to the poor-rates muſt be the neceſſary conſequence. The directions which an ITALIAN philoſopher of conſiderable celebrity has given on this ſubject with reſpect to the choice of a healthy ſituation for people in general, will apply with ſuperior force and propriety when that choice is exerciſed in determining on a ſituation for a community of paupers. "Let no man think of fixing his reſi-

dence

dence in a ſtagnant atmoſphere, or an air contaminated with noxious effluvia. Such as ſurround places not duly ventilated, or not ſufficiently removed from marſhy lakes and woods; from animals and contagious miaſmata; from heaps of dung, or other uncleanlineſs; from church yards improperly attended to; from mephitic vapours; from mines of poiſonous foſſils; or from laboratories where any ſuch materials are prepared and manufactured *." The ſituation, therefore, ſhould be in the ſuburbs of a town; in an open and an elevated ſpot, where the water is plentiful and pure;

* Non ſi ſoggiorni in un' atmosfera ſtagnante, o contaminata da perniciosi effluvj. Tal è ne' luoghi non ventilati, o non aſſai lontani dall' acque paludoſe, dalle boſcaglie, da miaſmi di corpi infetti di malattie contagioſe, da luoghi immondi, da' cemeterj mal cuſtoditi, dalle meffite, dalle miniere di foſſili venefici, e dagli elavatorj, ove ſi preparano, o affinano tali materie. G. Gualberto, Raccolt di opuſc. tom. 1.

and

and the reviving breeze may have full liberty of exerting itſelf. There are few pariſhes but are ſurrounded by ſome quantity of common land that would very ſufficiently anſwer this purpoſe; and where ten or twelve acres might be obtained, at an eaſy quit-rent, of the corporation, or the lord of the manor. The whole of this ſhould be incloſed for a paſture ground and a garden. The latter may be cultivated by the labour of two or three of the reſident paupers alone; and may find occaſional employment, in weeding, for ſome of the children: whilſt its produce will diminiſh the expence of every meal, and contribute towards the general health of the family. Nor is a paſturage of leſs conſequence than a garden: ſince the houſe may be hereby ſupplied with a ſufficient quantity of genuine milk, at the ſmalleſt expence at which it can be procured; and the children

children and the infirm may enjoy the benefit of exercise and recreation. Added to which, some parts of it may be conveniently appropriated to the purpose of a drying ground.

The plan of building, and the variety of its offices must, in a great measure, depend on the number it is designed to contain; and on the species of manufacture, or other employment, it may be beneficial to introduce.

As to the plan, I think it should seldom be composed of more than a ground and a chamber floor; which is that adopted at the celebrated house of correction at PETERSBURGH. Its elevation should be in a straight line, without the projection of wings on each side so as to form three quarters of a square court; a fashion frequently introduced into public buildings of every kind, but which

which tends conſiderably to prevent a free current of air, and to confine the breeze as it blows. The rooms of every deſcription, whether for ſleep, or labour, ſhould be lofty, and the windows large and oppoſite to each other. This circumſtance, in the rearing of infants and children, is of ineffable conſequence: and many of the firſt phyſicians of the preſent day, as Sir GEORGE BAKER, Dr. DARWIN, and Dr. BEDDOES, attribute the greater part of the convulſions to which mankind, at this early period of life, are expoſed, to the impure air of contracted and unventilated bed-rooms. One wing, or end of the building may be allotted to the governor, or maſter, for his own family; and the other may conveniently be converted into an infirmary; unleſs, indeed, the poor be very numerous, and the building be on a very large ſcale,

and

and then it will be more advantageous to have the infirmary detached and at a diſtance.

CLEANLINESS ſhould be enforced and encouraged by every poſſible exertion. With this view the linen ſhould be regularly waſhed and changed: the walls of the houſe ſhould be frequently white-limed; ſupplies of freſh water ſhould be large and eaſy; and thoſe weekly allowances which, even at NANTWICH, and many other places of nearly equal reputation, were, a ſhort time ſince, permitted for tobacco and ſnuff, ſhould be transferred to combs, towels, and ſoap.

Cold bathing ſhould be recommended; and ſome adjoining river be frequently reſorted to, both by men and boys, if the poor-houſe be advantageouſly ſituated for this purpoſe: and if not, a cold bath ſhould be ſunk in ſome convenient place on the premiſes. The former is a prac-

tice

tice frequently and laudably purſued in the well regulated public ſchool at YARMOUTH. And I moſt heartily wiſh the act of parliament which enforces the building of cold baths in every priſon throughout the kingdom, but which is ſo frequently and ſhamefully evaded, had extended this coercion to every poor-houſe as well. But perhaps the ſame culpable negligence would only have been alike exhibited throughout the whole.

Among the capricious faſhions of the preſent day, that, at leaſt, poſſeſſes ſome merit, which obliges every one, who can afford it, to reſort to ſome watering-place every ſummer; and thus enrich his conſtitution by participating in the two-fold advantage of ſea-bathing and pure air. Among the GREEKS and ROMANS, and eſpecially the former, this conſtituted a part of the regular ſeries of the occupation of almoſt every day. Among the

different

different ſtudies into which the elder CATO initiated his ſon, one was, therefore, the art of ſwimming with a dexterity to defy the ſtrongeſt currents and whirlpools: and MOSCHUS and OVID have, both of them, with much propriety, laid the ſcene of JUPITER's attempt upon EUROPA on the banks of the river ANAURUS, in which ſhe had juſt been bathing with her companions, and where they were then employed in collecting field flowers, and dancing on the fragrant graſs *.

In many of the beſt regulated houſes of correction in this kingdom, as thoſe of GLOUCESTER, OXFORD, and MIDDLESEX, the only BEDDING introduced is that of ſtraw mattraſſes, which the priſoners

* ποτὶ δὲ λειμῶνας ἔβαινον
Ἀγχίαλους, ὅθι τ' ἀιὲν ὁμιλαδὸν ἠγερέθοντο,
Τερπόμεναι ῥοδέῃ τε φύῃ καὶ κυμαίος ἠχῇ.
MOSCH. IDYLL. 2.

are

are commonly inſtructed to make for themſelves: and to theſe are added a pair of coarſe blankets, and a coarſe coverlid for each. But I have frequently noticed more litter and uncleanlineſs produced from this kind of bedding than from any other that I have ever been witneſs to: and as it would not be juſt to impoſe the ſame ſeverity of life upon a mere pauper as upon a criminal, flock beds, at leaſt, ſhould be permitted in all work-houſes, with ſheets as well as blankets: and in many counties theſe beds might be manufactured by the poor themſelves for their own uſe. Near large and populous cities, or where the population of the work-houſe itſelf is very conſiderable, the bedſteads ſhould be of iron; and, to prevent ruſt, they ſhould be painted: there is no ſort of bedſtead ſo cleanly, or ſo little diſpoſed to harbour filth and animacula. But, in diſtant villages,

villages, or where the population is ſmall, bedſteads made of oak, or elm, may, with attention, anſwer every purpoſe.

In many poor-houſes, the article of CLOATHING is not ſufficiently regarded: and the wretched inhabitants are ſuffered to wear out a miſerable life in rags, and half-naked, becauſe the expence of new cloathing them would, in ſome meaſure, increaſe the parochial rates. This falſe economy, to ſay nothing of the inhumanity of the practice, is not infrequently attended with the moſt dreadful effects; and productive of the moſt ſerious and unexpected expence.

If no attention be paid to the perſons of the poor by the maſter or overſeer, they will aſſuredly pay no attention to themſelves. Negligence will produce filth; filth will produce diſeaſe; and the common diſeaſe of all perſons cloſely and numerouſly aſſociated together, ſurrounded

rounded by filth, and living on ſlender and praſimonious diet, is putrid fever. It was ſo, from the general concurrence of theſe cauſes, a few years ago only, in the poor-houſe in ST. PETER'S pariſh, MARLBOROUGH. Few eſcaped the contagion; many died beneath its violence; and the poor rates were nearly doubled during its operation. But it is not always within the limits of the houſe itſelf that this fearful diſeaſe, after having once appeared, reſtrains its malignant influence. At SUDBURY, in SUFFOLK, where the poor-houſe conſiſts of the remains of an old monaſtery, and there is no infirmary for the ſick, I have known a putrid fever, originating amongſt the confined paupers, ſpread, with dreadful fatality, through the whole of the adjoining town, and conſternation appear in the countenance of every inhabitant.

How different is the ſcene at the cotton manu-

manufactory at GLASGOW; where, notwithſtanding its multitude of inhabitants, no typhous fever has appeared for years; and which has frequently eſcaped its contagion whilſt it has been committing its depredations in the neighbourhood. Need I add that an order, and regularity almoſt unparalleled, are here rigidly enforced; and that proper cloathing, and every other branch of cleanlineſs are ſtrictly adhered to?

It is not poſſible, however, in a treatiſe of this kind to deſcribe the ſorts of cloathing that ſhould be univerſally introduced: nor is it neceſſary if it were poſſible. A judicious overſeer, or committee, will, in every inſtance, determine on this head according to the common manufacture of the neighbouring diſtrict: and they will frequently find themſelves able to ob-

tain moſt of the articles required from the labour of the pauper community *.

* Vide on this ſubject the Section on Employment and Labour.

SECTION III.

ON DIET.

I paſs on to the conſideration of *diet*. Owing to the late ſcarcity of corn throughout all EUROPE, and more eſpecially in this country, together with the extravagant price of animal food, a thouſand expedients have, of late, been deviſed for diminiſhing the common expence of every meal. Some of them, undoubtedly, ridiculous, and futile, in the extreme, as thoſe which have recommended the making of bread from oak-ſaw-duſt, &c.* but ſome, likewiſe, which are, at leaſt, entitled to attention and trial.

* It is reported by many travellers into the northern countries of Europe, that ſaw-duſt, with pounded fiſh-bones, made into a kind of cake, forms the common food of Siberia and Scandinavia.

In the arrangement of a diet table, the firſt thing to be regarded is not merely the temporary ſatisfaction of the appetite, but the preſervation of general health. A diet table may be cheap, and its allowance may be abundant; but if it conſiſt of ſubſtances which will not recruit the ſtrength daily exhauſted by labour—of ſubſtances, like theſe too frequently made uſe of in the public nurſeries in IRELAND, nearly or altogether indigeſtible; and, of courſe, productive of frequent and general ſickneſs, it will be found an expenſive diet table in the end.—I cibi maliani, et difficili à digererſi, render gli umori o' troppo denſi e grumoſi, o d'indole acre, e putridinſo. Da eſſe derivaro le tiſi, gli ſcorbuti, le lebbre, la tabe, le febbre putrudi, e maligne, le gangrene, e ſimili *. With true economy humanity

* Foods that are unwholeſome, and difficult to digeſt, render the humours either too thick, and glutinous, or produce

nity will, therefore, ever go hand in hand: and content and chearfulneſs, under the direction of a ſkilful maſter, may be purchaſed at a much cheaper ratio than murmuring and diſatisfaction.

In the different Bridwells in this kingdom the diet ſeldom conſiſts of more than bread and water: about a pound and half of the former being allowed daily for each perſon; and ſometimes, as at GUILDFORD, and KINGSTON upon THAMES, not above fourteen, or fifteen ounces. This is, by far, too ſmall a proportion for any adult in a ſtate of health, even, as is too generally the caſe, ſhould no labour, or other exerciſe be made uſe of during the confinement: and for want of a proper ſtimulus and variation, I have

produce an acrimonious and putrid lentor. From hence originate conſumptions, ſcurvies, leproſies, maraſmus, putrid and malignant fevers, gangrenes, and ſimilar diſeaſes.—Raccolt. di G. Gaulberto. tom. 1.

often ſeen it productive of deleterious effects. The quantity of bread, even in theſe places, ſhould at leaſt be doubled, and a pint and half, or quart of milk be allowed at the ſame time.

But in work-houſes, where confinement is the effect of misfortune, and not of vice, a very different and more liberal plan ſhould be adopted. Animal food ſhould, here, undoubtedly be introduced, and that in a ſolid form. But it ſhould be regularly exchanged for broth, milk, potatoes, or whatever other vegetables may be acquired at the loweſt price, or raiſed in the greateſt abundance, in the garden belonging to the houſe.

One of the beſt regulated work-houſes in this kingdom is that at LEEDS. The cuſtomary diet is well arranged, and duly varied; excepting that the table makes no mention whatever of freſh vegetables; a circumſtance we ſhould not be much ſurpriſed at in LONDON, but which

which appears truly extraordinary in any part of the country, where health, and economy might be both allowed to plead for their introduction, and free uſe. In the incorporated charter ſchools in IRELAND there is ſcarcely any thing elſe employed, potatoes forming the principal ſubſiſtence of the children; and frequently ſupplying the place of both wheat and barley; whilſt animal food is never allowed above once a week, excepting when the price is much below the common ſtandard. This, however, is an oppoſite error, and of far greater magnitude than the former.

As I have mentioned the dietary at the work-houſe at LEEDS; and as it is certainly entitled to commendation, I will tranſcribe it for a compariſon with the diet allowed at SHREWSBURY; among the convicts on board the hulks at PORTSMOUTH; that mutually ſtipulated for FRENCH and

ENGLISH prisoners during the last war; and that which Mr. HOWARD himself drew up, and recommended for penitentiary houses.

These tables are calculated on the proportion for twenty persons; and the expences in each table are after the following ratio; which is, I believe, not far from the mean price of the present day: but which, at least, will discover the comparative economy of each institution.

Beer -	2½d per gal.	Cheese -	4d per lb.
Bread -	2d per lb.	Pease -	1½d per ditto
Meat fresh	4d per lb.	Salt -	1½d per ditto
Salt Pork	5d per ditto	Potatoes	0¼d per ditto
Bullocks heads	3d per ditto	Flour	3s 6d per peck
Rice -	2½d per ditto	Vinegar	1s 0d per gal.
Milk -	2d per gal.		

DIETARY

DIETARY FOR THE POOR HOUSE AT LEEDS.

DINNER.

	Beer.	*Bread.*	*Meat.*	*Rice.*	*Dumplings.*	*Milk.*	*Cheese.*
Sunday	1½ gal.	7½ lb.	16 lb.	—	—	—	—
Monday	ditto	ditto	—	1 lb with sugar.	—	1 gal.	—
Tuesday	ditto	—	—	—	15 lb.	—	—
Wednes.	ditto	ditto	—	—	—	—	7½ lb.
Thursday	ditto	ditto	16 lb.	—	—	—	—
Friday	ditto	ditto	—	ditto	—	ditto	—
Saturday	—	ditto	—	—	—	ditto	—
	2s	7s 6d	10s 8d	10d	2s 0d	6d	2s 6d

Total value per week £. 1 6 0

BREAKFAST.

Milk pottage, 20 measures, containing 1 gal. milk,
per day 2d —— per week - - - 1s 2d
Bread 7½ lb. per day 1s 3d—per week - 8s 9d 0 9 11

SUPPER.

	Bread.	*Broth.*	*Milk.*
Sunday	7½ lb.	5½ gal.	——
Monday	ditto	——	1 gal.
Tuesday	ditto	——	ditto
Wednesday	ditto	——	ditto
Thursday	ditto	5½ gal.	——
Friday	ditto	——	1 gal.
Saturday	ditto	——	ditto
	8s 9d	5s	10d 14 7

For 20 persons total expence per week £. 2 10 6

DIETARY

DIETARY ESTABLISHED FOR THE CONVICTS AT PORTSMOUTH.

DINNER.

	Bread.	*Salt Pork or Beef.*	*Beer.*	*Bullocks Heads.*	*Cheese.*
Sunday	24lb	20lb. former, or 24lb. latter	17 quarts	---	---
Monday	di to	——	---	20lb.	---
Tuesday	ditto	——	ditto	—	7lb.
Wednesday	ditto	——	—	ditto	—
Thursday	ditto	——	ditto	---	ditto
Friday	ditto	——	—	ditto	—
Saturday	ditto	——	ditto	—	ditto
	£. 1 8 0	8s	4s	15s	7s

Total - £. 3 2 0

SUPPER.

	Peas and Barley.	*Oatmeal.*
Sunday	3½ pints mixed into 10½ quarts soup.	——
Monday	ditto	——
Tuesday	——	3½ pints made into burgou
Wednesday	ditto	——
Thursday	——	ditto
Friday	ditto	——
Saturday	——	ditto
	4s	2s 6d Total 6 6

BREAKFAST.

Barley or rice 3½ pints per day into 10½ quarts soup, 1s per week - - - - - 7 0

Total expence per week for 20 persons £. 3 15 6

DIETARY

DIETARY *as mutually ſtipulated for the* FRENCH *and* ENGLISH PRISONERS *of* LAST WAR.

FOR THE DAY.

	Beer or Cyder.	*Bread.*	*Beef.*	*Butter or Cheeſe.*	*Peas.*	*Salt.*
Sunday	20 quarts	30lb.	15lb.	—	10lb.	15oz.
Monday	ditto	ditto	ditto	—	ditto	ditto
Tueſday	ditto	ditto	ditto	—	—	ditto
Wedneſday	ditto	ditto	ditto	—	ditto	ditto
Thurſday	ditto	ditto	ditto	—	—	ditto
Friday	ditto	ditto	—	80 oz. butter or 120 oz. cheeſe	ditto	ditto
Saturday	ditto	ditto	ditto	—	—	ditto
	8s 9d	11 15s	11 10s	3s	6s 8d	10½d

Total expence per week for 20 perſons £. 4 4 3½

DIETARY FOR THE HOUSE OF INDUSTRY AT SHREWSBURY.

DINNER.

	Bread.	*Cheeſe.*	*Potatoes. &c.*	*Beer.*	*Meat.*	*Peas.*	*Dumplings with Milk.*
Sunday	6¼lb.	—	20 trenchers	1½gal.	8¾lb.	—	—
Monday	12½lb.	6¼lb.	—	ditto	—	—	—
Tueſday	6¼lb.	—	dit'o	ditto	ditto	—	—
Wedneſ.	—	—	—	ditto	ditto	10 pints	—
Thurſday	6¼lb.	—	ditto	ditto	ditto	—	—
Friday	—	—	—	ditto	—	—	18lb with milk.
Saturday	6¼lb	—	ditto	ditto	ditto	—	—
	6s 3d	2s 1d	1s 0d	2s 4d	14s 7d	1s 8d	2s 6d

Total . . . £. 1 10 5

BREAKFAST.

	Bread.	Milk.	Broth.	
Sunday	8¼lb.	—	20 pints	
Monday	ditto	20 pints	—	
Tueſday	ditto	ditto	—	
Wedneſday	ditto	ditto	—	
Thurſday	ditto	—	ditto	
Friday	ditto	ditto	—	
Saturday	ditto	ditto	—	
	9s 11d	2s 1d	3s 6d	... 15 6

SUPPER.

	Bread.	Potatoes.	Peas.	Broth.	Beer.
Sunday	9lb. 6oz.	—	—	20 pints	—
Monday	—	20 trenchers with milk	—	—	1½ gal.
Tueſday	—	—	10 pints	—	—
Wedneſday	ditto	—	—	ditto	—
Thurſday	ditto	—	—	ditto	—
Friday	—	ditto	—	—	ditto
Saturday	ditto	—	—	ditto	—
	6s 2d	8d	1s 8d	7s	8d..ii. 16 2

Total expence per week for 20 perſons £. 3 2 1

DIETARY *projected by* MR. HOWARD *for* PRISONERS *in* HOUSES *of* CORRECTION, &c. *

DINNER.

Bread every day 20lb. 3s 4d—per week	£.	1	3 4
Sunday—20lb. beef, mutton, or pork, without bone, - -		0	9 2
Monday—20 pints of peaſe boiled in the broth of yeſterday, - -		0	3 4
Tueſday—10 pints of wheat, or wheat-flour, made into pudding or ſoup,		0	2 6
Wedneſday—40lb. of potatoes, turnips or carrots, &c. - -		0	1 8
Thurſday—The ſame as Sunday, -		0	9 2
Friday——The ſame as Monday, -		0	3 4
Saturday—The ſame as Wedneſday, or 5lb. of cheeſe, - -		0	1 8
Salt 5 oz. per day, per week,		0	0 3

BREAKFAST EVERY DAY.

Bread every day 10lb. 1s 8d—per week		0	11 8
Five pints wheaten, or barley meal, or rice made into ſoup, 10d—per week		0	5 10
Total expence per week for 20 perſons	£.	3	12 11

* Howard on Lazarettos.

On

On a comparison of these tables, the first thing that must strike the attention is the difference in the weekly expence upon the average number of twenty persons; from that incurred at LEEDS, being the lowest, and amounting to 2l. 10s. 6d. to that stipulated for the prisoners of last war, being the highest, and amounting to 4l. 4s. 3½d. It must be remarked, however, that in this last table, as also in that for the convicts at PORTSMOUTH, and that of Mr. HOWARD for Penitentiary Houses, the parties are all supposed to be adults; and, of course, to require a greater proportional allowance than where, as in the other two tables for the Poor-houses at LEEDS and SHREWSBURY, nearly an equal number of them are children; and the tables are calculated upon that proportion. Were such a ratio of computation to be introduced into Mr. HOWARD's table, it would reduce

duce it, at leaſt, to as ſmall an amount as the table for SHREWSBURY; and that for the convicts at PORTSMOUTH would only exceed it by a very trifling ſum.

The exceſs of expence in the dietary allotted to the priſoners of the laſt war, proceeds principally, from the daily allowance of meat, and the non-allowance of freſh vegetables. An agreement, however, on the part of the FRENCH, and ENGLISH Commiſſioners, which, I very well remember, was but very indifferently adhered to at GOSPORT: where the priſoners, both FRENCH and AMERICAN, were frequently deprived, and that, in a very conſiderable degree, of their adjuſted ratios of proviſions; or were ſupplied with both bread and meat of a very inferior quality. A conduct ſtrongly, and frequently remonſtrated againſt by that humane, and indefatigable

gable character, the late Reverend Dr. WREN.

It is from Mr. WOOD's account of the SHREWSBURY Houſe of Induſtry, that I have ſelected the table above diſtinguiſhed by this name. And I have been the more particular in doing this, becauſe, from the judicious act of Parliament, by which the poor of the different pariſhes in that town are incorporated, and from the ſpirited, and unwearied exertions of its more opulent inhabitants, it has long obtained, and well deſerved to obtain, a moſt honourable reputation.

From this table, calculated upon the marketable and common prices, I have introduced, throughout the whole, the expence of weekly proviſions to each is 3s. 1½d. From the cultivation of potatoes, and other vegetables in the garden belonging to the houſe, as alſo from the home paſturage of the cows

that

that ſupply it with milk; the expence as calculated above may, in a ſmall degree, exceed the real expence incurred: but the writer of the pamphlet referred to muſt certainly be miſtaken in calculating the weekly expence of proviſions to amount to no more than 1s. 6½d. per head. The bread, and meat alone, muſt exceed that ſum conſiderably, independent of any one article beſides: and allowing, which is being very liberal in my conceſſions, that the 14 ounces of meat, the amount of the ratio for Sunday and Thurſday, and which is all that can be made uſe of for this purpoſe, according as the table is, at preſent, exhibited*, ſhould be alone ſufficient, without any additional quantity, to manufacture the ſix pints of broth, to which

* There are three other days in which meat is, likewiſe, introduced for dinner: but as, on theſe days, the meat is merely ſtewed with vegetables, it cannot be appropriated to the purpoſe of broth.

every

every individual is weekly entitled, including breakfaſt and dinner.

Were 1s. 6¼d. the real eſtimate of weekly expence for each, it would be an inſtance of ſingular economy indeed; and would, with a richer diet, fall far below the weekly eſtimate at LEEDS. The eſtimation, however, is inconſiſtent with the account ſtated, in a table towards the cloſe of the pamphlet, to have been actually paid for each. In the year 1790, the average number of poor, we are told, was 340 *. What was the total expence of proviſions for this year I know not; but the above table, for the year 1794, gives us the following eſtimate:

Butcher's meat - - -		£. 525	6 7
Garden-ſtuff L. 125 4 6—Flour £. 798 4 5		923	8 11
Peas £. 14 8 0—Oatmeal £. 30 17 6—			
Salt £. 35 3 3 - - -		80	8 9
Malt, Sugar, Hops, &c. for brewing -		253	4 6
	£.	1782	8 9

* Page 78.

In

In this table there is no charge brought forward for milk or cheese; and the charge of groceries being blended with that for candles and lamp-oil, the estimate for eatable groceries must also remain unknown. It is natural to suppose that the prudent regulations adopted by the directors, at SHREWSBURY, will occasion, every year, a diminution in the number of dependent paupers: in the same manner that similar regulations have been attended with similar beneficial effects at NORWICH, and at HAMBURGH. At the latter place this diminution has, for the last seven years, amounted, upon the average, to a hundred families per annum; and at the former, from 1789 to 1792, to more than a hundred persons. If then the average number at SHREWSBURY, for the year 1790, were 340, it probably did not amount, at the utmost, to more than 300

in

in the year 1794. Allowing, however, the number this year to have been preciſely the ſame as four years before, viz. 340; and that the annual expence of proviſions for theſe 340 paupers amounted to the above ſum of £.1782 8 9; even on this calculation the weekly expence of proviſions ariſes to upwards of 2s. per head; though neither milk, cheeſe, nor grocery, are included in the eſtimate. At NORWICH, and few perſons are more entitled to the thanks of the community at large for their prudence, perſeverance, and economy, than the court of guardians of the poor of that city, this weekly expence is averaged at 2s. 10d. each; but every individual earning 5d. weekly, the nett expence is hereby reduced to 2s. 5d. inſtead *.

* Vide on this ſubject a valuable tract, entitled, An Enquiry into the Cauſes and Production of Poverty; and the State of the Poor, &c. by John Vancouver. (Edwards, Printer.)

I am

I am the more induced to regard this calculation of Mr. WOOD's as erroneous, becauſe I am perſuaded there is another miſtake which has inadvertently been admitted into the pamphlet reſpecting the proportion of deaths to births in infants under a month old.

In the PAYS DE VAUD in SWITZERLAND, which the late Dr. PRICE regarded as the healthieſt country in EUROPE, if not in the world, the proportion of infants dying within the firſt month is one in fifty nine; in the ſouthern provinces in FRANCE rather more than one in fifty.—"In the pariſh of DUNMOW," obſerves the Reverend Mr. HOWLETT, when commenting upon the paſſage in queſtion, "which poſſeſſes a moderate degree of healthineſs, one in about forty-ſix. In the Houſes of Induſtry in NORFOLK and SUFFOLK, where I have been able to obtain the requiſite,

quiſite date, one in between ſix and ſeven; and in the LONDON work-houſes one in five *."—Yet we are told, in the Hiſtory of the SHREWSBURY Houſe of Induſtry, that, of ninety-one, the whole number born there from its firſt inſtitution to the publication of this account, not one infant had died during the firſt month from its birth! It cannot be wondered at that Mr. HOWLETT, in his correſpondence with Mr. WOOD, ſhould expreſs much ſurpriſe at this relation; and ſuſpect that ſome miſtake had ariſen from the deaths of ſome infants, in conſequence of their not having been baptiſed, or from ſome other cauſe, having been omitted to be regiſtered. It is, indeed, a circumſtance ſo inconſiſtent with what is related of the proportional mortality of the paupers at the ſame

* Wood's Hiſtory, &c. p. 84.

place,

place, in every other ſtage of life; an event ſo totally repugnant to the common laws of nature in every place, that it can ſcarcely be ſuppoſed to occur but by a miraculous interpoſition of Providence in favour of the SHREWSBURY inſtitution.

I have dwelt the longer on theſe inaccuracies, becauſe the pamphlet, in which they are recorded, is written with much ability; and has, I believe, acquired, and juſtly acquired too, an extenſive reputation; and, becauſe of the authenticity of the general account, they may be credited by a large number of patriotic and well-meaning men, who may be much ſurpriſed on putting the ſame plan into execution, and following it up with equal ſpirit, that the ſame ſucceſs and beneficial conſequences ſhould not reſult from their exertions. Such inaccuracies ſhould be avoided, moreover, becauſe they tend to diſcredit a whole book, on whatever

ever ſubject, and with whatever ability it may be compiled.

To return to the ſubject of diets: The plan I ſhould recommend in preference to all the others; or, at leaſt, with a few alterations, is that introduced into the work-houſe at LEEDS. It has the advantage of being cheapeſt, and, at the ſame time, is ſufficiently wholeſome and nutritious. I have already noticed its defect in not containing freſh vegetables; and were the ratios of meat, allotted to each perſon on Mondays, and Fridays, amounting to rather more than a pound and half for the two days collectively—divided into three parts, and diſtributed on three days inſtead of two, a ſufficient quantity would ſtill be allotted for a meal of meat, eſpecially with the aſſiſtance of vegetables, and the poor would appear to be gainers by the alteration of an additional day's allowance.

The

The diet for the priſoners for the laſt war is fuller than is neceſſary: and more than either ſoldiers or ſailors are accuſtomed to receive when at liberty, and engaged in continual exerciſe or other labour. There is a conſiderable ſuperabundance of both bread and meat, as well as beer, by which the expence is rendered exorbitant: and, like the diet laſt noticed, it is deficient in potatoes or other vegetables.

The diet for convicts on board the PORTSMOUTH hulks is much better arranged. The meat, however, allowed for Sunday's dinner is more than neceſſary, as is likewiſe the bread allotted for dinner every day. It is a diet ſufficiently full for convicts when employed in ſevere daily labour. And there are many honeſt mechanics, entirely dependent upon their own induſtry, who never have it in their power to live ſo well by many degrees.

The introduction of bullocks' heads is advantageous: it is a food both nutritive and cheap; and aſſiſts better than many joints of finer meat in the manufacturing of broth and ſoup. Like the two laſt, this dietary is alſo defective in not allowing freſh vegetables.

The diet for the SHREWSBURY Houſe of Induſtry is entitled to more praiſe ſtill. It is a very liberal one in the article of meat, more ſo, perhaps, than is neceſſary for either health or economy; and it boaſts of the free introduction of vegetables and milk.

The dietary projected by Mr. HOWARD is a more expenſive one than this laſt, though he allows meat but twice inſtead of five times a week. It has a ſufficient advantage in vegetables, but it entirely prohibits beer; a beverage always innocent, and which by its ſtimulus, is frequently ſalutary in the digeſtion of meals

formed

ſormed principally of bread, or dumplings. Had he, however, drawn it up for pariſh work-houſes, he would, probably, have allotted both beer and milk. The expence of this table riſes high from the allowance of a large ſuperabundance of daily bread, and the purchaſe of meat without bone: though the bone, by proper management, may be made to produce almoſt as much nutriment as the meat, and be advantageouſly employed in broths.

Since the late ſcarcity, and conſequent dearneſs in corn, POTATOES have been principally reſorted to by all families, but eſpecially amongſt the poor, as the beſt ſuccedaneum for flour and bread. And, perhaps, the extent to which this practice has been carried, may lay the foundation for its more general and frequent uſe in future. The prolific root of the potatoe may be cultivated with a very trifling expence in ground appropriated to the poor

houſe: and, if the ſoil be good, will produce at the rate of 300 buſhels per acre; each buſhel weighing, when properly cleaned, about 75 pound averdupois. One pound and a half of potatoes will yield as much nutriment as one pound of bread; and if both were bought at the ſame market, would coſt little more than one-fourth part, allowing wheat to be at its medium price.—But if it be cultivated by the paupers themſelves in ground appropriated to this purpoſe, it will not coſt one-ſixth part of the medium price of bread. Potatoes, moreover, may not only be uſed for common food when boiled and meſhed, but they may form a large conſtituent ingredient in the compoſition of the bread itſelf, which would reduce the price of this article very conſiderably indeed*.

In

* The beſt methods of making any of the different preparations

In SCOTLAND, amongſt the hardy and muſcular inhabitants of its bleak and barren Highlands, there is ſcarcely any other food than the potatoe ſubſiſted upon from year to year. And I have already remarked that it conſtitutes the principle ſupport of the children in the incorporated charter ſchools of IRELAND.

I dot think, therefore, that the potatoe forms, by any means, a ſufficient part of the diet in any of the tables I have drawn out, and animadverted upon above. In ſeveral of them it is not at all introduced; and in none of them as a ſubſtantial part of the regimen, but only as a wholeſome and antiputreſcent vegetable. I ſhall take the liberty, therefore, of exhibiting a new

preparations of potatoes may be collected from the Report of the Board of Ariculture on this ſubject: and at the Quakers' ſchool at Ackworth, in Yorkſhire, there is a convenient machine made uſe of for abrading the peel of the potatoe.

dietary formed upon the doctrine I have thus endeavoured to eſtabliſhed reſpecting the low price, and ſubſtantial nutriment of the potatoe, and interſperſed with other alterations which appear to me to be of equal neceſſity, as conſtituting both a cheaper, and more commodious arrangement. Among theſe alterations one of the principal will be found to conſiſt in the frequent uſe of meat baked in pies, inſtead of being conſtantly given either boiled or ſtewed. Every domeſtic economiſt knows how much ſmaller a quantity of this diet will ſatisfy the moſt voracious appetite, than of any other diſh whatever.—" Four pounds of mutton," ſays an ingenious writer, " were made into a pie with one pound and a half of wheat flour; this pie, with eight ounces and a quarter of bread, dined eight perſons fully: whilſt three pounds three quarters of mutton roaſted, with two

pounds

pounds one ounce of bread, dined only five of the ſame perſons *."

In the following table meat pies are, therefore, introduced twice a week; as Sunday, and Wedneſday, for example; and the cruſt is made of potatoes entirely, being firſt boiled and meſhed up with milk; from which kind of diſh I have frequently dined myſelf with no ſmall luxury.

The breakfaſt conſiſts of milk porridge formed from oatmeal; and the ſupper alternately of potatoes meſhed with milk, and of broth and bread, with due allowance of beer when neceſſary.

BREAKFAST.

One gallon of milk with an equal quantity of water, being an allowance for 20, each day 2d—per week,	-	1s 2d
Five pints of oatmeal, each day 8d—per week,	-	4s 8d
Total	- -	5s 10d

* Lettſom's Hints concerning the Diſtreſſes of the Poor.

Breakfaſt as above £. 0 5 10

DINNER.

	Meat.	*Potatoes.*	*Peas.*	*Milk.*	*Beer.*	*Bread.*	*Rice.*
Sunday	10lb.	15lb.	—	—	1½ gal.	—	—
Monday	—	—	—	1 gal.	ditto	7½lb.	1lb. with ſugar. *
Tueſday	15lb. bullocks heads	15lb.	10lb.	—	—	—	—
Wedneſday	10lb.	ditto	—	—	ditto	—	—
Thurſday	15lb. boiled	ditto	—	—	ditto	—	—
Friday	—	—	—	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto *
Saturday	15lb. bullocks heads	ditto	ditto	—	—	—	—
	19s 2d	1s 8d	3s 4d	4d	1s 8d	2s 6d	10d

Total £. 1 9 6

SUPPER.

	Potatoes.	*Broth.*	*Milk.*	*Beer.*	*Bread.*
Sunday	20lb.	——	2 pints	—	—
Monday	—	20 pints of Saturday's	—	—	7½lb.
Tueſday	ditto	——	ditto	—	—
Wedneſday	—	ditto of Tueſday's	—	—	ditto
Thurſday	ditto	——	ditto	—	—
Friday	—	ditto of Thurſday's	—	—	ditto
Saturday	ditto	——	ditto	—	—
	1s 10d	0s 0d	2d	0s 0d	3s 9d 5 9

Total expence for 20 perſons per week £. 2 1 1

* The rice on theſe days is deſigned for rice-milk, of which a gallon is ordered for twenty, and is ſuppoſed to have an equal quantity of water mixed with it.

In

In this table I have endeavoured as much as poſſible to reconcile economy with general habitude. The table which Mr. HOWARD has drawn out for houſes of induſtry conſiſts but of two meals for the day: and for every purpoſe of health I am convinced that two full meals muſt be altogether ſufficient. LYCURGUS, notwithſtanding the extreme exerciſe in which the SPARTANS were engaged, prohibited them from eating more than one *. And TULLY has recorded a letter from PLATO in which this latter philoſopher condemns the SYRACUSANS for accuſtoming themſelves to feaſting upon two meals daily; and accuſes them of intemperance in ſo doing †. Theſe meals, however, were certainly of animal food. The SPARTAN ſoup, in all probability, was very rich, and nutritious

* Plut. in Lycurg. † Tuſc. Quæſt. lib. 5.

for PLUTARCH informs us that the elders of this nation, who were always honoured with a choice before the younger orders were allowed to partake of the repaſt, uniformly preferred the ſoup, and left the meat to the latter *.

Some regard, however, is undoubtedly due to popular prejudice; eſpecially when, as in the preſent inſtance, it can be indulged at a trifling expence; and when oppoſition would be productive of rancour and diſcontent. And I have, therefore, added a ſupper, or third meal, to the two allowed every day by Mr. HOWARD's table. As it is, however, and calculated upon the common ſcale of expence upon which I have calculated all the others, it falls a fifth part below the table at LEEDS, and a third below that at SHREWSBURY; though it equals, I think, any of them in point of nutri-

* In Lycurg.

ment

ment and convenience. The average of paupers in the latter city aſſociated in its houſe of induſtry is 340: and if the expence be equal, and it cannot be far ſhort of it, to the calculation I have made upon the regimen at preſent in uſe there, the exchange of it for the dietary I have juſt recommended, would produce a diminution of nearly £. 900 per annum in the poor-rates by which it is ſupported; and the poor themſelves would be equally thrifty and ſatisfied. And, at LIVERPOOL, where the paupers in the workhouſe ſeldom amount to leſs than 1000, and the diet is as expenſive, at leaſt, as that at SHREWSBURY, in proportion to its numbers, the regular levies for their ſupport would be diminiſhed by very conſiderably more than £. 2000 per year.— And I beg it may be remarked that, from a wiſh to avoid exaggeration in recounting the benefits of my own plan, I have

allowed the utmoſt quantity of potatoes that can ever be required; I have ſuppoſed them to be purchaſed, inſtead of raiſed at home; and I have calculated the bread as made from wheat flour alone, and not at all intermixed with the former.

Though profeſſedly writing upon the beſt practical plan to be introduced into this kingdom, I cannot avoid adverting to ſome of the ſyſtems of cheap diet adopted on the continent; of which the moſt celebrated are thoſe introduced into the dominions of the Elector Palatine, and many of them under the care and ſuperintendance of our own countryman, Count RUMFORD. According to the ſtatement he has publiſhed in his Eſſays on this ſubject, the BAVARIAN ſoldier allows himſelf four meals a day, conſiſting principally of ſoup and dumplings; and is at a daily expence for this diet,

and

and the fuel requiſite to cook it, of $5\frac{1}{48}$ creutzers, or $2\frac{1}{91}$ pence ſterling*. A ſum which, undoubtedly, appears very ſmall, conſidering that he is ſtated to be perfectly contented with his diet, and healthy, and cheerful, in the uſe of it. But it muſt be remarked, that what, at the time of this calculation, coſt but two creutzers, or half-pence, would now coſt three even in GERMANY, and in LONDON could not be purchaſed under ſix†. The weekly expence of the BAVARIAN ſoldier, therefore, for ſubſiſtence, which, at the former period, was 1s. 3d. nearly, would, at this time, in LONDON, amount to little leſs than 3s. 6d. and his daily ſtipend, including his ſeparate allowance of $1\frac{1}{2}$d. per pound of BAVARIAN bread, to which every ſoldier is entitled, independent of his pay, and which is equal to three creutzers, mak-

* Eſſay iii. p. 362. † Id. p. 244.

ing

ing his whole daily income equal to eight creutzers, is conſiderably ſuperior, therefore, to the daily pay of the BRITISH ſoldier.

There is, however, ſomething much more ſtrikingly economical in the diet which this very intelligent, and patriotic ſuperintendant has introduced, and that with much general ſatisfaction, into the pauper eating halls at MUNICH. Where, as he informs us, the daily expence for each did not exceed one halfpenny during his reſidence in that city. For, allowing the expence in GREAT BRITAIN would, at the preſent period, be tripled, ſtill it would not, by the week, amount to more than 10½d. a ſum minute almoſt beyond all poſſible comprehenſion; and putting to the bluſh every ſpecies of economical ſcheme, which has hitherto been attempted amongſt ourſelves. The diet conſiſts of farinaceous

farinaceous ſoup without meat of any kind, but rendered ſavory, and pleaſant by the addition of ſalt, pepper, vinegar, and various kinds of culinary herbs; and its principal cheapneſs, independent of the abſence of animal food, depends on the introduction of potatoes, and Indian, or barley meal. But as I have never had an opportunity of trying this kind of food among the poor, in any general way, I cannot anſwer for the manner in which it would be received in this country. Its cheapneſs, and nutrition, properly entitle it to our ſerious conſideration: and the ingenious and philanthropic author of the Eſſays which treat of this important ſubject, is deſerving of every degree of gratitude from the civilized world, for the unwearied aſſiduity with which he has made his experiments. His book ſhould form a part of the library of every overſeer, or inſpector of the poor, and be frequently reſorted to

for

for information. It is very probable, however, that the poor of MUNICH are not ſupported at quite ſo low a price as Count RUMFORD apprehends: for as they all retire from the houſe of induſtry in the evening, and ſleep at their own habitations, many of them may frequently be tempted to purchaſe ſome other kind of proviſions with the ſurplus earnings of the day, without communicating the fact to the committee, or ſuperintendants.

Before I cloſe this ſubject I ſhall take the liberty of ſubjoining the following tables of the comparative value of different foods for diets; and particularly of the difference between potatoes and wheat flour. For the former of which I am indebted to the late Mr. DIRON's Enquiry into the corn laws*.

* Quarto, printed by Creech, Edinburgh.

An

An acre of good pasturage grass will produce	Number of meals. 227
Potatoes -	16,875
Turnips - -	463
Barley - -	2,196
Peas and Beans -	1,280
Wheat - -	2,745
Oats - -	3,421

TABLE

Calculating the Expence of cultivating an Acre of Wheat.

	£.	s.	d.
Fallowing - - -	2	18	0
Manure - - -	4	4	0
One load of seeds, average price -	1	1	0
Ploughing and sowing - - -	0	12	0
Reaping - - -	0	10	0
One year's rent and taxes - -	2	10	0
N. B. The straw will pay the expence of threshing - - -	0	0	0
	£. 11	15	0

TABLE

Calculating the Expence of cultivating an Acre of Potatoes.

	£.	s.	d.
Preparing the lands, including ploughing and setting - -	2	2	0

Sets

Sets 30 bushels at 1s. per bushel -	1	10	0
Manure - - - - -	4	10	0
Digging up the crop at the close of the year at 5d. per load - - -	2	1	0
Rent and taxes for one year - -	2	10	0
£.	12	13	0

SECTION

SECTION III.

OF AN INFIRMARY, AND THE CARE OF THE SICK.

EVERY honeſt and induſtrious man is an acquiſition to the riches, as well as to the number of a ſtate: and every ſuch man, therefore, when rendered incapable, by age or ſickneſs, from proſecuting his accuſtomed employment, is entitled to every neceſſary care, and aſſiſtance from that ſtate which he has thus benefited, and enriched in his former life, and which, even yet, he may, perhaps, enrich and benefit in future. And to ſuch the humanity of the BRITISH poor-laws more immediately addreſſes itſelf; ſecuring to them, as far as it can ſecure, that right

right which is undoubtedly their due, but which they do not always enjoy as they ought. Whenever, therefore, there is any neceſſity for the erection or appropriation of a poor-houſe, an INFIRMARY will always be an indiſpenſible appendage to it.

I repeat the limitation, *whenever there is ſuch neceſſity*; becauſe, as I have before obſerved, in a very great number of country villages there can be no ſuch neceſſity whatſoever: as the expence of ſuch an eſtabliſhment, whether it be properly or improperly regulated, muſt be heavier than that of aſſiſting, with ſkilful management, the ſick, the aged, and the diſtreſt at their own homes. The *neceſſity* of ſuch an eſtabliſhment, therefore, can only exiſt in larger cities, or towns, or in very populous villages, or where ſeveral adjoining, and leſs populous villages have incorporated themſelves for this purpoſe.

If

If the poor be numerous, and the eſtabliſhment be on a large ſcale, the infirmary ſhould be a diſtinct building from the houſe, and erected at a convenient diſtance. If the reverſe, the oppoſite wing, or end, to that in which the maſter's family reſides, may be beneficially appropriated to this purpoſe.

It ſhould conſiſt, at leaſt, of four wards, or apartments; two on the ground floor, and two above; and divided from each other by a broad and eaſy ſtair-caſe; the one ſide appertaining to the men, and forming a ward for convaleſcence, as well as a ward for ſickneſs; and the other ſide apertaining to the women. Beſides which there ſhould be a ſtripping and fumigating room for all on their firſt admiſſion into the inſtitution; that it may be diſcovered whether they labour under the itch, or any other infectious complaint;

and

and an apartment for a ſhop, or ſtore-room for the viſiting apothecary; with a chamber above, and contiguous, for the nurſe or nurſes to ſleep in. As ſcarcely any medicine is of more real ſervice in any illneſs than cleanlineſs and pure air; theſe are circumſtances that ought moſt religiouſly to be attended to. For this purpoſe the wards ſhould be large and lofty, with large, and, if poſſible, with oppoſite windows, and ventilators, and the convenience of adjoining water-cloſets. And the nurſe, who is ſelected from the houſe, for the purpoſe of attending on the ſick, ſhould not only be humane, ſober, and well verſed in her duty, but habitually attached to cleanlineſs in every reſpect.

With regard to the officiating ſurgeon and apothecary there is generally much error, I think, in the mode of appointing him. The man who gives a high price for

for a good article proves himſelf a better economiſt in the end than he who purchaſes an inferior article, of the ſame name, at a cheaper rate. It is not poſſible, I well know, for perſons who are unacquainted with the rudiments of medicine themſelves, to appreciate, with much preciſion, the medical ability of the different profeſſional candidates. Were this, however, poſſible to be done, it would be found much more advantageous to a pariſh to allow a higher ſalary to a ſurgeon and apothecary of known integrity, and ſuperior talents, than a lower ſalary to one who is comparatively deficient in theſe requiſite qualifications.

There are few pariſhes with which I am acquainted where the ſalary is ſufficient to repay a gentleman for the time and trouble he is unavoidably called upon to beſtow on accepting the office in queſtion, and punctually diſcharging its

duties.

duties. And yet he is, in general, not only ſuppoſed to be ready with his attendance upon every emergency, and whenever a careleſs, or capricious overſeer may chuſe to ſummon him, be it to whatever part of the pariſh it may, and be the diſtance at which the practitioner reſides ever ſo great; but he is ſuppoſed, at the ſame time, to ſupply, out of the ſame contracted annuity, the paupers of the whole pariſh, with his medicines as well. This injudicious parſimony in a pariſh is too frequently a ſource of perpetual diſcontent, and diſpute between the poor, and the practitioner: the former thinking themſelves too often neglected, both as to viſits and medicines; and the latter feeling that he has done more, even by his journeys and viſits alone, for the ſalary allowed him, than any porter in LONDON could be compelled to perform.

To

To this obſervation I know there is a ready anſwer; and it has not infrequently been given: if the practitioner be diſſatisfied let him reſign his office; there are others who will hold it if he will not, and upon the ſame or even lower terms.

Such is the preſent ſtate of the practice of medicine in this country, that, be the terms what they may, there undoubtedly are ſuch perſons. To competition, when liberally conducted, I am a friend in every inſtance: but it frequently happens, amongſt neighbouring medical practitioners, that all liberal competition is abſolutely impoſſible. A gentleman of education and ability in this line of buſineſs, and who lives not more than twelve miles from LONDON, had been accuſtomed, for ten years, to attend the poor of an adjoining pariſh to his own, upon a ſalary of eight guineas a-year. And having many patients, who required regular viſits

the neighbourhood, he contrived to be no loſer by the engagement. It is not more than two years ſince that the journeyman of a druggiſt, certainly devoid of all liberal ſcience, and who, as I learn from a phyſician in the neighbourhood, is equally defective in the particular branches in which he pretends to knowledge, fixed himſelf as a medical practitioner in an adjoining pariſh. The indigence of his circumſtances induced him to offer advice and aſſiſtance on nearly half the terms his opponent had been regularly accuſtomed to charge; and having, on the Eaſter before laſt, propoſed to the above pariſh to attend their poor for five guineas a-year, inſtead of eight, in a fit of unjuſt, and impolitic parſimony, the overſeers diſcarded the practitioner who had for many years antecedently been accuſtomed to attend, and engaged with this needy adventurer.

But

But a ſtill worſe practice than this prevails in many pariſhes; and that is of putting the medical care of the poor up to auction; and offering them every Eaſter to the loweſt bidder. About twelve years ago the pariſh of GREAT WALDINGFIELD, in SUFFOLK, was farmed to a practitioner, reſiding about five miles off, for fifteen guineas a-year; and he had received the ſalary for ſeveral years duly. A ſpirit of impolitic economy, however, took poſſeſſion of ſeveral of the farmers at this time: and, becauſe they had heard of no murmuring among the poor for want of medical aſſiſtance, they conceived that this ſalary was too high, and ought to be diminiſhed. Propoſals ſealed up were, therefore, requeſted to be ſent to the Eaſter veſtry meeting by any perſon who choſe to become a candidate for the office. The loweſt offer this year was twelve guineas; and it was

from another practitioner; who, in conſequence, was elected. Delighted at the ſucceſs of the expedient, the ſame ſcheme was renewed, and put in practice by the pariſh at the enſuing year; and the ſalary was reduced to ten guineas. Again they perſevered on the third year, and it was diminiſhed to half the original allowance. And at the preſent time, I underſtand, that the ſalary, which, as before obſerved, uſed to be fifteen guineas a year, is, by the ſame ſtratagem, ſunk to four guineas and a half: but I likewiſe underſtand, from the ſame quarter, that there is no harmony or ſatisfaction between the poor and the perſon who attends; and, ſurely, in this there is nothing myſterious.

To induce a perſon to be regular and attentive in the diſcharge of his office, he ſhould be aſſured of full ſatisfaction for the time, and the trouble he expends. We have otherwiſe no claim upon him whatſoever

whatſoever: and it by no means follows, becauſe, from a ſpirit of envy, or ungenerous competition, another perſon will conſent to ſell his labour at a ſmaller ſum, that, therefore, the man who has demanded a larger has exceeded, in his demand, what he is juſtly entitled to. I do not adviſe that the medical attendant ſhould purſue, in the preſent inſtance, the plan that he is accuſtomed to purſue in his private practice; that, I mean, of charging a price for his labour upon the drugs he employs; becauſe I am aware that a variety of expenſive evils might, in ſome caſes, enſue from hence: but I, by all means adviſe that the drugs neceſſarily made uſe of ſhould be regularly paid for by the pariſh, independent of all ſalary whatſoever. I adviſe that the practitioner himſelf ſhould have the entire ſuperintendance in this reſpect; but that he ſhould order them in the name, and

for the uſe of the pariſh for which they are intended; and that they ſhould be immediately forwarded, and addreſſed to the infirmary in the pariſh poor-houſe.

Such is the plan adopted in all, or nearly all the hoſpitals and diſpenſaries in this metropolis. And there is no reaſon why it ſhould not be extended to the infirmaries in both priſons and poor-houſes as well. On the contrary much benefit muſt accrue herefrom: and in the MIDDLESEX Houſe of Correction I have perſonally witneſſed many evils accruing from the want of ſuch an adoption.

From this common repoſitory the poor, who are out-patients, as well as thoſe who are confined in the infirmary may all be ſupplied. In times even of the moſt general health the apothecary ſhould have his ſtated periods of attendance; which, in a populous town, and where he himſelf reſides, ſhould be, at

leaſt, three or four times a week; and, in diſtant villages never leſs than twice. With theſe ſtated periods of attendance the pariſh, or pariſhes, at large ſhould be univerſally acquainted. Notes requeſting his attendance ſhould be addreſſed to him at the infirmary: and out-patients, who are able to be preſent, ſhould be in waiting for his arrival. An infinite quantity of labour would hereby be ſaved, both to himſelf and thoſe who are perſonally attendant upon him; and, of courſe, the expence to the pariſh would be much curtailed.

In the hands of the nurſe ſhould be left the key of this ſhop or repoſitory.—Or, if it be thought indiſcreet to confide ſo large a truſt in her, ſome few medicines, at leaſt, as emetics, cathartics, ſudorifics, ſpirit of hartſhorn, opodeldoc, and ſeveral others, divided into proper doſes, or with proper labels, and direc-

tions appended to them, might conveniently be lodged with her to be uſed in caſe of accident or emergency: or when the more ſcientific aid of the medical practitioner is not immediately required.

Two ſick books, the one for thoſe without, and the other for thoſe within, ſhould, moreover, be duly provided by the pariſh; that regular entries may, from time to time, be made of the names of the unwell, the diet requiſite for them, and cauſual obſervations. Theſe books ſhould conſtitute a part of the account regularly inſpected by the viſiting committee; who will hereby acquire infinitely more knowledge than is otherwiſe generally acquired, of the ſtate of health or ſickneſs of the pariſh, or pariſhes to which they belong.

A book of this ſort, with daily entries, is kept open at the new MIDDLESEX

penitentary houſe. In the infirmaries of pariſh work-houſes a few alterations may be neceſſary in ſome of the columns: and I do not know that it could more conveniently be divided than in this manner:

JANUARY 6.

Names of the ſick	When admitted	Diſeaſe	Meat	Milk	Wine	Brandy	Occaſional obſervations, &c
Thomas Wilſon	Jan. 3.	Fever	1lb for broth	-----	-----	-----	to be allowed a lemon
Hannah Hewet	Jan. 4.	Rhumatiſm	1lb	½ pint	-----	-----	to be diſcharged to-morrow

The ſmalleſt degree of habit will deſtroy all poſſible trouble in continuing ſuch entries as theſe; and their general utility muſt be too obvious to eſcape notice.

SECTION

SECTION IV.

OF EMPLOYMENT, AND LABOUR.

TRAVAILLER, obſerves a celebrated philoſopher, eſt un devoir indiſpenſable à l'homme ſocial: riche ou pauvre, puiſſant ou foible, tout citoyen oiſif eſt un fripon*. From the extreme difference in the common productions, and manufactures of GREAT BRITAIN, however, it will be found impoſſible to recommend any one employment, as the only one, or even the beſt for all houſes of induſtry. The choice muſt depend, in a very great degree, upon its ſituation, and the ſuperior demand, in the country

* To labour is a duty indiſpenſable to every man in a ſtate of ſociety; rich, or poor, weak or ſtrong, every idle citizen is a rogue.—Roſſeau.

adjoining,

adjoining, for one kind of labour in preference to another. Thus, for example, the picking of oakum, or a manufactory for ropes and cables, may be introduced with more propriety in ſea-ports, or near large, navigable rivers, than in the midland counties, and where water carriage is but little known: whilſt the ſpinning and carding of wool, which are often very advantageouſly introduced into the latter, may be leſs productive, and beneficial in the former.

There are, indeed, two general rules which ſhould conſtantly be adhered to by the directors, or overſeers of every pariſh work-houſe, be its ſituation where it may.

The firſt is that which I have juſt noticed, to appropriate the common employment, and labour as much as poſſible, to the immediate demand of the circumjacent country.

And the ſecond is to take care that the employments made uſe of be of real and intrinſic value: that they be adapted to the rank and ſituation of paupers, and yet capable of affording them the means of comfortable ſubſiſtence when diſcharged from the work-houſe.

If the firſt of theſe rules be deviated from, the neceſſary expences of the inſtitution muſt be very materially increaſed. If the raw material to be manufactured be brought from a conſiderable diſtance it muſt be ſubject to a high price for carriage. And if the market for it, when manufactured, be at an equal diſtance, this price will be doubled. If this double price of carriage be laid upon the article at the time of ſale, it will advance it, in all probability, above the average price of the ſame article manufactured in other places: and if it be deducted from the profit upon that article, it will reduce

duce that profit below its proper proportion, and perhaps deſtroy the profit altogether.

About twenty years ſince, the graziers of LINCOLNSHIRE were accuſtomed to ſend almoſt all their raw wool to NORFOLK and SUFFOLK for a market. The price of the carriage alone, at leaſt to the latter county, amounted frequently to twelve or fourteen guineas a load; and increaſed, to an exorbitant degree, the price which might otherwiſe have been ſatisfactory for the woollen manufactures of thoſe counties.

The ill policy of ſending the wool of their own growth to ſuch a diſtance has, of late years, however, been ſufficiently perceived by the inhabitants of LINCOLNSHIRE; and the introduction of woollen manufactories among themſelves has rendered them capable of underſelling, by the preciſe difference in the price

of

of carriage, the manufacturers of the latter counties. It is in vain to introduce new ſyſtems of machinery, or to employ thoſe already invented. The ſame ſyſtems may be employed in the former places as in the latter, and the infinite difference in the value of the raw material, in the counties where it is grown, and in thoſe where it is not, muſt deſtroy the very baſis of all poſſible competition. In ESSEX and SUFFOLK, therefore, the woollen manufactories are dwindling very rapidly. And, though the greater contiguity, and the ſuperior reputation of the NORFOLK manufactory have ſtill continued, to this county, a very conſiderable, and almoſt excluſive trade, NORFOLK will follow eventually the fate of the other counties where paſturage is not the prime object, and wool, of courſe, not generally grown. It prolongs its proſperity at preſent, but its ultimate iſſue is certain and unavoidable.

There is, however, another reaſon why dependent paupers ſhould be rather introduced into an acquaintance with buſineſſes near home, than with thoſe at a diſtance. A man who has been inſtructed to weave ſilks, or linens at PORTSMOUTH or PLYMOUTH, would find himſelf, if, at his own requeſt, he were to be diſcharged from a houſe of induſtry, in either of thoſe towns, at as great a loſs for employment, and conſequent ſupport, as if he had never learnt any occupation whatſoever. To remove from his place of ſettlement, and gain a new one at MANCHESTER, COVENTRY, or any other town where he might more eaſily find employment, is, however, almoſt impoſſible for him, as a pauper, without a certificate from his pariſh: and ſhould he be fortunate enough to obtain a certificate, and remove in conſequence hereof; and, from any unfore-

ſeen accident, be diſabled in this new ſituation, the expence of his ſupport would, at leaſt, quadruple what it would do at home.

It is for ſimilar reaſons the employment introduced ſhould be of real and intrinſic value, and adapted to the pauper's rank in life. Nothing can appear more inconſiſtent with the end and intention of a poor-houſe than the introduction of tambour, and other fine needle works: and yet theſe are the manufactures in which the female poor are engaged in the work-houſes at EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, and many other places in SCOTLAND. Even if theſe females ſhould be fortunate enough to ſucceed in their future lives, it is at leaſt elevating them beyond the ſtation to which they can have any pretenſions. And if they ſhould not, they are hereby diſqualified for all common ſervice, and muſt uniformly fall back

back again upon the parishes to which they were originally indebted for support; et quæ dementia est supervacua discere in tanta egestate *!

There are many parishes, however, that exhibit the direct converse of such a conduct: and, instead of having any desire to eclipse the rest of the world in the arts, and manufactures introduced among their poor, are too idle, and inattentive to their own interest to introduce any at all. Such is the case at MARLBOROUGH, and CARMARTHEN. And the pauper-rates, at these places, are frequently exorbitant, and the inhabitants murmur perpetually at their amount. But they do not suffer more than they deserve for their inactivity; nor in reality so much. It does not occur to them that this in-

* And what madness is it to teach things altogether superfluous in scenes of such extreme poverty! Senec. Ep. 48.

activity,

activity, whilſt it increaſes their own expences, by encouraging a ſpirit of idleneſs, and averſion to labour, among the poor, is injuring theſe laſt, at leaſt, in an equal degree with themſelves; and depriving the country at large of no ſmall quantity of beneficial induſtry, and employment.

I have ſaid that the employment introduced ſhould not only be adapted to the rank and ſtation of the poor, but of real and intrinſic value to them. The employment, perhaps, eaſieſt to be procured, is the picking of oakum, horſe-hair, or wool. And it is, therefore, the employment moſt frequently to be met with in poor-houſes; and, more eſpecially, in bridewells. I cannot regard it, however, as an employment much to be recommended, excepting for the aged, or thoſe who are diſabled from purſuing more active ſervices. It is an employment

ment which can ſeldom be purſued with ſufficient advantage to earn a man his own individual ſupport in a houſe of induſtry; and which cannot, therefore, be beneficial for him to follow, and which he will ſeldom have an opportunity of following, when diſcharged from thence. And if a pauper be acquainted with no other occupation than this, he will be very likely, in a few months after his diſcharge, to become burdenſome again to his pariſh. The moſt economical employments, therefore, at all times, even if they be attended with additional expence in their introduction, are thoſe which will furniſh a pauper with the means of ſubſiſtence for himſelf and family, ſhould he have one, when, in future time, dependent upon himſelf alone. In this way, and in this way ſolely, the eſſential intereſt of a pariſh can be duly attended to; and a pauper,

when

when once diſcharged from the houſe, can, in no other way, be diſcharged without the probability of his returning.

In ſmall, and unincorporated villages I cannot recommend the erection, or appropriation of any poor-houſe whatſoever. The expence of ſuch an eſtabliſhment being, in all ſuch ſituations, far ſuperior to what is neceſſary for the ſupport of the aged, and the diſabled at the cottages of themſelves, or their relations, if any degree of proper management be introduced *.

In

* From the calculations I have introduced, when diſcuſſing the ſubject of diets, it will appear that the average price of the weekly ſupport of each pauper in a poor-houſe cannot be expected to fall much ſhort of 2s. 6d.; eſtimating the prices of the articles purchaſed at the common marketable ratio. But it is at a much leſs expence than this the poor are accuſtomed to ſupport themſelves at home. To the Rev. Mr. Davies, of Barkham, the public are much indebted for his labours on this ſubject: and I will therefore tranſcribe from his valuable publication

In larger towns, or cities, or wherever poor-houſes are actually inſtituted, the men and the women, the elder boys, and the elder girls ſhould be punctilioufly kept ſeparate. The aged, and the diſ-

tion the average expence of a family in his own pariſh, when conſiſting of a man, his wife, and five children, the eldeſt eight years of age, the youngeſt an infant:

EXPENCES PER WEEK.			s.	d.
Bread and flour,	-	-	6	3
Yeaſt and ſalt,	-	-	0	4
Bacon or other meat	-	-	0	8
Tea, ſugar, butter,	-	-	1	0
Cheeſe (ſeldom any)	-	-	0	0
Beer (ſeldom any)	-	-	0	0
Soap, ſtarch, blue,	-	-	0	2¼
Candles,	-	-	0	3
Thread, thrum, worſted,		-	0	3
			8	11¼

It is truly lamentable that this family earns not more than 8s. 6d per week leaving a deficiency in the year's account (and averaging rent, fuel, clothes, lying-in, &c. at £. 6 0 0) of £. 7 2 9. So incompetent is the preſent price of common labour to defray the neceſſary expences of a family.—Caſe of Labourers in Huſbandry, &c.

abled,

abled, as well as the younger children of both ſexes, may be judiciouſly employed in the ſedentary occupation of picking oakum or horſe-hair, or any kind of light and ſimilar labour. But the reſt, eſpecially on the male ſide, ſhould be accuſtomed to hardier, and more uſeful engagements. If there be a garden of any conſiderable extent, and, for the growth of potatoes, and other vegetables there certainly ſhould be, it will employ the labour of a few for the greater part of moſt days. And if cows are kept, and pigs bred, and fattened, both which may be done very advantageouſly, and which actually are done at the poor-houſe in SHREWSBURY, and many other places, the care of theſe will occupy the unemployed hours which remain from gardening.

For the reſt the ſimpler branches of the woollen manufactory, as ſcribbling, carding,

carding, and ſpinning, or the making of lint from old linen; by proper, and ſimple machines, may be introduced advantageouſly, and with no ſmall profit.

If it be found deſirable from the number of paupers, and the extent of the inſtitution, to introduce more regular, and elaborate trades; looms, of a variety of kinds, as thoſe for ſtockings, crapes, broad cloth, or ſhalloons, according to the general trade of the adjoining country, ſhould, then, be erected; and a maſter engaged, and allowed for his trouble in the inſtruction, and neceſſary attendance, a due proportion of the common profits. By means like theſe might be manufactured at home all the woollen articles neceſſary for clothing, as linſey-woolſey, ſerge-ſtuffs, flannels, and baizes. And, if the ſpinning of flax were, likewiſe, to be introduced among

the

the children of both ſexes, they would not only be employing their time to future advantage, but there is ſcarcely any article of clothing of any kind they could ſtand in need of, that might not be manufactured in the houſe itſelf: and it might be ſaid of them with literal truth that

The ruſſet cloathing o'er their ſhoulders thrown,
With decent dreſs to fence the evening air,
This ſimple ruſſet cloathing was their own;
'Twas their own country bred the flock ſo fair,
'Twas their own labours did the fleece prepare *.

The late Mr. BARTON of CARLISLE invented a very uſeful, and ingenious inſtrument for the ſpinning of hemp, wool, or flax. It is a horizontal wheel at which twelve little children can ſpin at one time; and without interfering with each others work. Its expence is about five guineas; and no poor-houſe,

* Shenſtone.

where

where there are children ſhould be without it.

Much of what I have here advanced will apply to females as well as males. The former, as well as the latter, may be engaged in the different branches of the linen or woollen manufactory, which it may be judged expedient to introduce into a work-houſe: ſtill ſedulouſly attending to a conſtant ſeparation of the ſexes. But as the youger children ſhould all of them be fitted for ſervants, and domeſtic occupations, they ſhould early be inſtructed in plain needle work: and, by turns, attend to the cleaning, waſhing, and cooking, which muſt neceſſarily take place, every day. A ſufficient knowledge of the latter, therefore, may be eaſily acquired from the neceſſary occurences at home. And, I am perſuaded,

if the overſeers, or directors, were to uſe a ſmall quantity of exertion and reſearch, they might eaſily obtain, from wholeſale ſaleſmen, and regimental clothiers, ſufficient orders, upon terms of moderate gain, to keep the female department in a conſtant ſupply of work.

At the SHREWSBURY poor-houſe, the directors, for the benefit of the males, have introduced many handicraft trades and occupations; ſuch as ſhoemakers, nailors, taylors, and carpenters; and appear to diſpoſe of the goods manufactured, in a very conſiderable degree, to the benefit of the inſtitution. Theſe gentlemen are entitled to a very high ſhare of praiſe for their laudable, and unremitted activity: but the complicated ſcheme they are thus enveloped in, I cannot recommend to be adopted generally throughout the country. It is not to be expected

expected that a neceſſary attention ſhould, for many years, be paid to ſo extenſive a concern, unleſs the parties attending are entitled to ſome emolument for their trouble. And when once ſuch a neceſſary attention is relaxed or diſcontinued, the pariſh will be involved in a very conſiderable expence for the purchaſe of new materials: and from the idleneſs, or the frauds that will inevitably enſue, the articles ſold will ſeldom repay it for the original expences incurred.

If I were to recommend any one trade in preference to others, as that which might be moſt eaſily, and advantageouſly conducted, it ſhould be a hemp manufactory, with a rope-walk: in which, whilſt the labours of beating and heckling were performed by the leſs adroit, thoſe of ſuperior abilities might engage in ſpinning, weaving, rope-making, netting, and a variety of other branches

connected herewith*. This is not, I believe, a buſineſs often introduced into houſes

* In low and marſhy countries, where the ſalix caprea, or withen, is much cultivated, a paper manufactory might advantageouſly be introduced. Its bark has frequently been uſed for this purpoſe very ſucceſsfully: and I recommend, on this ſubject, a peruſal of Mr. Richardſon's very valuable paper, in the 4th vol. of the Memoirs of the Mancheſter Society, p. 2. in which the ingenious writer has given a particular account of the manufacture of paper from the bark of the above-mentioned plant, and has added an eſtimate of the expences neceſſarily incurred, with a view of proving the manufacture of paper cheaper in this way, than in the common mode of obtaining it.

The paper alſo made uſe of in CHINA and JAPAN is manufactured, in a way ſomewhat ſimilar, from the bark of the bamboo, or the hadſi, the morus papyrifera ſativa of LINNE. The tender bark is boiled to a pulp, cleaned from impurities, and afterwards formed into a proper paſte for paper, with an infuſion of rice, or ſome other mucous plant, as the orenni root.

But it is not paper alone that the ingenious Japaneſe content themſelves with producing from the bark of this laſt very uſeful and prolific ſhrub. For many of their ropes and other cordage are manufactured from the ſame material.

The

houſes of induſtry, or even into duly regulated bridewells in any parts of the kingdom; but there are few parts where it might not be attempted with the proſpect of conſiderable gain: and the branches engaged in ſhould be proportioned to the uſual number and ſituation of the paupers themſelves. In LINCOLNSHIRE, the iſle of ELY, and other places, where hemp is largely cultivated, great advantage would be derived from the frequent inſtitution of ſuch manufactories. And it may be well worth the attention of the inhabitants of HAMPSHIRE, KENT, ESSEX, and other places, where hops are largely cultivated, to inſtitute, among their poor, hop-manufactories of a ſomewhat ſimilar kind; that they might convert to purpoſes of

The payprus of EGYPT and GREECE was converted, according to PLINY, to the ſame various uſes, and by means nearly ſimilar. Hiſt. Nat. lib. xiii. c. 11.

real and national utility the haums or binds of this plant; which, till of late, have been regarded as of no poſſible value, and univerſally condemned to a bon-fire or dunghill*. The raw material, in this caſe, is productive of little or no expence; and if the firſt efforts in its manufacturing be not attended with ſo much perfection as that of wool or hemp, it will produce a gain free from all original coſt, and will be bringing forward a purſuit highly beneficial to the country.

After all, however, although for thoſe

* The cultivation of hemp, and the manufacture of ſail-cloth were, in the beginning of this century, ſtrenuouſly recommended for encouragement, by Lord SOMERS, in IRELAND. And it has lately obtained there very conſiderably, and is found to be a very lucrative employment. On a national account this is deſirable as it muſt ſave a part of that very unfavourable balance againſt us in our trade for naval ſtores to RUSSIA, and the BALTIC, amounting to not leſs than 200,000l. annually.

who

who are neceſſarily confined within the limits of a poor-houſe, whether young or old, I am not acquainted with any occupation, which, as a general one, I can ſo readily recommend as the manufacture of hemp, and more eſpecially of hop-binds; I would ſtrenuouſly adviſe the directors of every ſuch inſtitution, not to ſuffer any pauper to continue within its limits longer than till there be an opportunity of fixing him, or her abroad. Some expence, beyond that of their own earnings, will ſtill attend the maintenance of the moſt induſtrious: for it is not to be ſuppoſed that the ſame conſtant economy can be introduced, and practiſed; and the ſame unwearied ſuperintendance exerciſed in ſuch places, as in private manufactories, where the fortunes, if not the exiſtence, of individuals is dependent thereon. And if due care be taken to implant habits of in-

duſtry, and principles of honeſty, and general morality into the minds of the young, I am fully perſuaded, every one, of both ſexes, would be an object ſo deſirable, and ſo much ſought after, by private families in the neighbourhood, as ſervants or apprentices, that there would be, at all times, more applications than perſons to ſupply the demand.

This is not the caſe, I well know, at preſent. And in many inſtances, where a committee of magiſtrates have interfered, and enforced every family within the diſtrict, to take, in its turn, a male or female apprentice, an univerſal murmuring, and diſſatisfaction have enſued. But it is the caſe, and that without any exception, in the Orphan, and Foundling hoſpitals around the metropolis; and whence proceeds the difference, I intreat? whence but from the different attention which is paid to the morals, and

education

education of the different places in queſtion? whence but from that unbounded ignorance, idleneſs, and vice, which are too often the perpetual attendants upon the one; and that induſtry, regularity, and decorum, which are conſtantly enforced in the other?

In the enſuing chapter, I ſhall, therefore, lay down a few rules, and advance the beſt ſyſtem of practice with which I am acquainted, for attaining ſo deſirable an end.

SECTION V.

OF MORAL AND RELIGIOUS ECONOMICS.

"TRAIN up a child in the way in which he ſhould go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."—The philoſopher who firſt advanced this aphoriſm was well acquainted with human conduct, and the force of general and early habits. And it forms a great part of the baſis on which all penitentiary houſes, and well conducted houſes of induſtry are, at preſent, inſtituted;—the production of virtue and induſtrious labour by long and undeviating habitude.

Intereſt, therefore, and philanthropy alike concur in recommending a due degree of inſtruction and education for the young,

young, and of attention to the morals of thoſe of every age. On this account more eſpecially all ſwearing ſhould be prohibited with the moſt punctilious pertinacity; and every deviation from honeſty and truth puniſhed without exception. For the ſame reaſon, and from the ſame regard to decency and morality, I repeat it again, the male and female inhabitants ſhould be kept ſtrictly ſeparate. I have already remarked on ſome of the evils which muſt inevitably enſue from the impolitic plan introduced into the poor-houſe at LUDLOW. But I have not yet obſerved that, in conſequence of no regular bridewell being eſtabliſhed in the town, one of the rooms in the poor-houſe is appropriated to this purpoſe: where the utmoſt latitude is allowed in ſwearing, drinking, and every ſpecies of vulgar diſſipation, which the finances of the vagrants, and

other culprits confined there, will permit.

In a ſituation like this is it poſſible that any efforts to excite a ſpirit of virtue and decency ſhould avail? Of what conſequence can be the introduction of pious inſtruction to the young, or religious conſolation to the old? The contagion of evil example muſt ſubvert every generous exertion, and poiſon the conduct of the whole community.—"Not only with reſpect to the body," obſerves SENECA, "but with reſpect to the mind as well, ſhould we heſitate as to the choice of our habitation. Even for my own part, continues he, I hate to reſide in the neighbourhood of ale-houſes, and to behold continually drunkards wandering through the ſtreets; and hear them vociferating their ſenſeleſs and indecent ſongs *."

* Non tantum corpori, ſed etiam moribus ſalubrem locum eligere debemus, &c. Epiſt. 51.

But

But habits are much ſooner generated from inclination than coercion: and that man will be much more induſtrious, and more virtuous who is himſelf perſonally intereſted in his own labour. It is a wiſe and laudable practice, therefore, which is exhibited in the houſe of induſtry at HAMBURGH; and which was, a few years ago, copied from thence, and introduced, by the patriotic exertions of Count FLORIDA BLANCA, into many of the ſame inſtitutions in SPAIN; that, I mean, of allowing every pauper ſome ſhare in the profits of his own labour*. It is, in every ſtation, a neceſſary ſtimulus to exertion. And every farmer, and mechanic is ſo convinced of the advantage that reſults to himſelf from thus combining the intereſt of the ſervant he employs, with that of himſelf in the labour performed,

* Vide M. Ibberti's Obſervations Generales ſur les Hoſpitaux, &c.

that

that wages are now made almoſt univerſally to depend, wherever they can ſo depend, upon quantity inſtead of upon time.

"Force," ſays a foreign writer of high reputation, "may command labour, but it never can command induſtry. And nothing elſe can render even a ſlave induſtrious but the certainty of receiving, in return for that induſtry, an equivalent, or his liberty *." Of all ſyſtems, and contrivances, therefore, that muſt ſurely be the worſt which farms out the poor to maſters who will ſupport them at the leaſt expence to the pariſh. And, who in conſequence hereof, are allowed to extract a ſubſiſtence for themſelves out of the ſcanty terms to which they have agreed; and whoſe only profits are commenſurate with the general hunger they daily ſuffer to continue unappeaſed. At

* Herenſchward. De l'Economie politique moderne.

LUDLOW the poor of the town, and of ten adjoining parishes were, a few years since, farmed together, in its old, and miserable work-house. And at MONTGOMERY this inhuman practice is carried to a greater extent still. For here the person farming lives at a distance; and merely serves the office by a resident deputy. So that whilst the poor are starving upon short allowances, and an ill-adjusted diet, there are, in this instance, two families instead of one, to be supported at their expence. Can it be imagined that industry, or contentment will be the inmates of such prisons as these? Can it be supposed that men will labour in good earnest for tyrants whose very appearance is a curse to them? or spend their strength in the acquisition of profits which they are previously assured will never be of the remotest advantage to themselves.

It

It is not that men are naturally vicious; it is not that they are naturally idle, that we ſee them both in poor-houſes, and in private hovels ſo frequently indiſpoſed to all activity and laborious exerciſe. It is owing to an undue want of regulations, and effective ſtimulus. On ne voit point de la pareſſe, point de l'indolence, point de l'oiſivité dans les jeux des enfans. Ici ils ſont vifs, appliqués, exacts, amoreux des regles, et de la ſymmetrie: ici ils ne ſe pardonnent nulle fautes les uns aux autres *. And why are mankind leſs diſpoſed to exertion in a ſtate of manhood than in the early ſtages of infancy and youth? why but becauſe they are not ſufficiently intereſted in the labour in

* We behold no idleneſs or inactivity in the ſports of children. Here all are active, punctual, exact, fond of rules and proportions: nor do they ever forgive each other the faults that are committed.—Caract. de la Bruyere, tom. 2.

which

which they are employed? why but becauſe the ſweat of their brow, and the whole extent of their lives, if out of a poor-houſe, are dedicated to the ſupport of another family by whom they are employed; and, if in a poor-houſe, are only productive of thoſe exigencies of food which, whether they labour or not, the the pariſh to which they appertain, is ſtill compelled to allow them?

The impropriety of ſuch a conduct, however, begins to manifeſt itſelf rather generally throughout GREAT BRITAIN, and even IRELAND; and to be diſcarded for a more liberal ſyſtem. At BURY ST. EDMUNDS the culprits, in the houſe of correction are allowed one half the profits of their labour. In the work-houſe at SHREWSBURY the poor are allowed one ſixth part; and at LONDONDERY, which is principally compoſed of the aged and the decayed, the whole is permitted

mitted them gratuitouſly. The propor tion allowed at SHREWSBURY is, I think, ſufficient; and will generally prove an adequate ſtimulus to induſtry and exertion *. The men and the women ſhould be paid their ratios once a week: the ſum will ſupply them with a number of little conveniencies, and innocent indulgencies to which, in former years, they may, perhaps, have been accuſtomed. And thoſe who are engaged in cultivating the garden, in the care of cattle, or in the interior avocations of the houſe, ſhould be allowed a full proportion with the reſt of the community. To diſtribute ſuch a weekly proportion to children, however, would be uſeleſs. And in ſeveral inſtitutions, therefore, ſuch weekly ſums are retained in the hands of the directors or

* And Sir Frederick Eden has informed me it is the proportion allowed the priſoners confined in the gaol at Dorcheſter; who have, independent hereof, an additional allowance of broth to their bread.

overſeers,

overſeers, and ſuffered to accumulate till ſuch children are diſcharged from the houſe, as ſervants, or apprentices to private families; and are then, for the greater part, expended in the purchaſe of comfortable cloathing, while the remainder is allowed as pocket money. A better plan, I think, would be to unite them, at an early age, as that of ſix or ſeven years, for example, into companies of four, five, or ſix: and with the joint, and weekly ſtock, to purchaſe a diſtinct ſhare for every company in ſome neighbouring tontine. If the tontine continue for ſeven years before the general property be divided, and few tontines allow of an earlier diviſion, the ſurviving claimants will have juſt arrived at an age to find their ſhares of eſſential conſequence; and to recommend them, in different capacities, to reſpectable tradeſmen and mechanics.

To

To encourage an inclination to induſtry, the labour ſhould not be of too long continuance. Occaſional reſpites ſhould be allowed, and occaſional exerciſe and recreations indulged in.

Who labours much ſhould ſometimes life enjoy*.

This, which is of conſequence to the health of all, is of more immediate conſequence with reſpect to children. The hours ſhould be early, both of riſing and retirement. In ſummer the different employments ſhould be entered upon never later than ſix in the morning, nor cloſed before ſeven in the evening: allowing three quarters of an hour's relaxation for breakfaſt at eight o'clock; and an hour for dinner at one. In the winter the labour will be naturally begun about an hour later, and ſuſpended in the evening, about an hour earlier.

* Ἦν ταχα μοχθήσαντί ποθ' ὕστερον ἐσθλα δεχθεσαι.

BION. IDYL. 5.

Such

Such is the diſtribution of time at the cotton-manufactory at GLASGOW: and I know of few places where better regulations are introduced, either in this, or in any other reſpect.

By means like theſe regularly, and punctiliouſly adhered to, a habit of induſtry, and virtue may be produced in the young, and even re-excited in thoſe of middle age, which will not eaſily be broken through amidſt all the variations of future life and ſtation.

To the power of habit, however, ſhould be ſuper-added that of principle: a knowledge of right and wrong from the force of moral and religious inſtruction. If the former be ſuppoſed capable of producing by itſelf a happy and beneficial reſult, how much will that reſult be confirmed when a mental motive is added to a mechanical impulſe? when a man is acquainted with the duties of

ſociety

ſociety and religion; and is operated upon by a belief in the omnipreſence of the Deity, and the hopes and fears of a future ſtate?

There is no inſtitution, perhaps, of late years that has ſo much benefited this nation as SUNDAY SCHOOLS. A Sunday ſchool ſhould be eſtabliſhed in every village: and it ſhould certainly conſtitute a part of the regular ſeries of occupation in every work-houſe. And if the evening, or afternoon of ſome other day in the week, were appropriated to the ſame kind of inſtruction, the greater quantity of knowledge hereby acquired, would, in proportion to its acquiſition, render every boy or girl an object of greater value to private families, as a ſervant or apprentice, and, of courſe, more generally ſought after.

In the houſe of induſtry at SHREWSBURY the morning and afternoon of every day

day are allowed to the younger children for inſtruction. Proper teachers are, likewiſe, provided; a private chapel is erected for the inſtitution; and a chaplain engaged, with an annual ſalary, to perform regular duty there. In all this the intention diſcovered does the higheſt honour to the human heart: but it appears to me to conſtitute a plan much more complex and expenſive than there can be any occaſion for.—The knowledge neceſſary to be acquired by the children of paupers is ſimple; and may be acquired, moſt aſſuredly, without daily application, even if it extend, and it certainly ought to extend, to a knowledge of writing, and numerical arithmetic; and the afternoon and evening of every Sunday and Thurſday, will, with proper care, and attention, be amply ſufficient. I have ſeen many children of ſeven and eight years of age, whoſe only

knowledge

knowledge of reading has been derived from the weekly inſtruction of a Sunday ſchool, who diſcovered a very ſufficient acquaintance with their native tongue for every neceſſary purpoſe; been able to read with propriety; and were making an ample advance in arithmetic and writing. For this purpoſe, moreover, we need not often roam abroad for inſtructors. There will generally be found in a community of fifty or ſixty paupers, ſome few among the aged or diſabled, who are adequate to this office, and who cannot be better employed. It may be a little irkſome to them at firſt, but habitude will ſoon reconcile them to it; and they will, in a ſhort time, become as accompliſhed ſchoolmaſters, and ſchool-miſtreſſes as the village matron who has been immortalized by SHENSTONE; and poſſeſs as much diſcrimination as herſelf

Right

Right well each varying temper to deſcry,
To thwart the proud, and the ſubmiſs to raiſe.
Some, with fair promiſe, to exalt on high,
And ſome entice with pittance ſmall of praiſe.

I have mentioned Sunday as a day which ſhould certainly be appropriated to learning. And I have fixed on it with this particular view: that all the poor of the pariſh, as well thoſe who are out of the work-houſe, as thoſe who are in, might have an equal opportunity of having their children inſtructed in uſeful and neceſſary knowledge. The male and female ſchool-rooms of the work-houſe ſhould, therefore, be open to all who chuſe their children ſhould attend; and books ſhould be provided for them at the public expence. There is many an induſtrious poor man who has a moſt earneſt deſire that his children ſhould be taught reading and writing, but is prevented from gratifying this deſire by the

number of his family, or the ſmallneſs of his weekly earnings. And moſt aſſuredly there is no reaſon why the children of ſuch a man, ſupporting himſelf independent of parochial aſſiſtance, ſhould be deprived of the ſame opportunities for learning which are allowed to the children of relieved and burdenſome poor.—Added to which it ſhould ever be remembered that the moſt effectual method to prevent any pauper from becoming dependent on his pariſh, in any period of life, is to implant within him, when young, the greateſt poſſible number of means of obtaining future ſupport.

At the cotton manufactury at GLASGOW, the regulations in which I have already adverted to with pleaſure, it is not merely the children who are lodged within the inſtitution that are entitled to inſtruction, but thoſe who inhabit the adjoining village as well. They conſiſt of upwards

upwards of five hundred in the whole amount, and have ſixteen teachers to ſuperintend them, including two writing and one cyphering tutor. Beſides which there is likewiſe, a perſon who inſtructs the girls in ſewing; and another who occaſionally teaches church muſic.

I again repeat it, therefore, that the ſchool-rooms in every pariſh houſe ſhould be open to the pariſh at large, and at the moſt convenient ſeaſon: and that every poor family ſhould be equally invited to ſend its children there. Whatever may be the ſituation of ſuch children hereafter, they will not, without heart-felt gratitude, be able to contemplate an inſtitution ſo pregnant with advantages to themſelves, ſo laudable to the feelings of their benefactors: an inſtitution where knowledge of ineſtimable value to them has been acquired: and where ſtudies have been attended to

which, however ſimple and inerudite at the time, may ſtill rank among thoſe "quæ adoleſcentiam alunt, ſenututem oblectant, ſecundas res ornant, adverſis perfugium ac ſolatium præbent, delectant domi, non impediunt foris, peregrinantur, ruſticantur*."

The expence erecting a houſe-chapel, and the eſtabliſhment of a houſe-chaplain muſt, I think, in almoſt every inſtance, be ſuperfluous. The inſtruction of children in the firſt elements of the Chriſtian religion, by means of catechiſms, may, ſurely be done by the different ſchool-maſters and ſchool-miſtreſſes employed, if duly ſuperintended by the governor of the houſe; and occaſionally by the overſeers, or other directors.

* Which cheriſh youth, and delight age; which adorn proſperity, and afford ſolace, and an aſylum in adverſity; which pleaſe at home, and produce no obſtruction abroad; which are the beſt companions in retirement or in travel—Cic. pro. A. L. Arch.

By

By the governor himſelf, likewiſe, ſhould the morning and evening prayers be publicly read in one of the ſchool-rooms. And there is ſomething more decorous and impreſſive in allowing the whole community to make their regular appearance in ſome neighbouring church, than in obliging them, every Sunday, to attend to divine ſervice at home. The public eye is there more immediately upon them; and will become an additional ſtimulus to order and ſolemnity. In many of the public inſtitutions in this metropolis, as the LOCK and MAGDALEN Hoſpitals there would be an obvious impropriety in admitting ſuch public attendance; and in many others as the FOUNDLING HOSPITAL, and ASYLUM, the diſtance from all places of public worſhip was originally too conſiderable: and, at preſent, the eſtabliſhment of a chapel forms no ſmall part of

the revenue of thoſe inſtitutions. At the WELCH ſchool, however, as well as many others equally well regulated, there are neither houſe chapels, nor houſe chaplains. The attendance is at ſome chapel in the neighbourhood; and the neceſſary religious inſtructions, and admonitions are generouſly and gratuitouſly ſupplied by the officiating clergyman.

Thus ſhould they be ſupplied, and thus I hope they would be ſupplied, by the clergymen of almoſt every town and village, if due order and regularity, were once generally and effectively introduced into our poor-houſes; and if gentlemen of ſufficient influence and authority would themſelves engage in a voluntary, and occaſional ſuperintendence.

Such is the plan I would recommend; and ſuch are the means by which it might be duly enforced. And ſhould the plan I have thus feebly ſketched out

be,

be, by theſe means, fully attempted and executed, the parochial burdens of the people would be infinitely diminiſhed; the ſpirit of mendicity be ſuppreſſed; idleneſs and vice be deſtroyed in their very embryo; the poor themſelves be rendered comfortable and contented; and the Philoſopher and the Chriſtian contemplate with equal ſatisfaction of heart, the extenſive charge effected, and the goodly proſpect introduced.

THE END.

BOOKS PUBLISHED

BY THE AUTHOR OF THIS DISSERTATION.

I.—A DISSERTATION on the DISEASES of PRISONS and POOR-HOUSES, publiſhed at the requeſt of the Medical Society of London, having obtained the Primium offered by the Society for the beſt Eſſay on this Subject.—Printed for C. Dilly, Poultry.

II.—CASE of PRETERNATURAL FATATION, with Obſervations on the Phænomena that occurred.—Printed for C. Dilly, Poultry.

III.—The HISTORY of MEDICINE, &c. from the earlieſt accounts to the preſent period.—Publiſhed at the Requeſt of the General Pharmaceutic Aſſociation of Great Britain—Second Edition, printed for C. Dilly, Poultry.

IV.—SKETCH of the REVOLUTION in 1688, with Obſervations on the Events that occurred.—Second Edition enlarged and illuſtrated.

N. B. For an Account of the Author's Tranſlation of LUCRETIUS ſee the beginning of this Book.